嘘
uso
喰
gui
9
追稔雄

嘘喰い
uso gui

9

迫稔雄

YJ
ヤングジャン
YJC

嘘喰い 9

迫稔雄

集英社

雪井出に迷宮勝負で敗れた梶は
何者かによって拉致される。
そこで初めて自らが失った
代償の真実を知るのだが…!!
"嘘喰い"獏と迷宮の主・雪井出の
化かし合いが今、始まる!!

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雑誌 44265－05

usoguui

嘘喰
uso
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迫稔雄
saka toshio presents

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喰人 9

Contents

この作品はフィクションです。
実在の人物・団体・事件などには
いっさい関係ありません。

斑目貘
（まだらめばく）

◆前巻までのあらすじ

廃坑での賭郎勝負に勝利し、お屋形様と取引した斑目貘は、賭郎会員へと復帰する。再び"屋形越え"を目指す貘稼は、タダで億単位の金を稼げるという情報を入手。候補として勝負に挑む梶は、謎の一室で他人の記憶を集める迷宮の主・雪井出と対ゲームを開始。先手で冴えを見せる梶だが、ストレートで迷宮を解かれ!?

登場人物紹介

マルコ

梶隆臣（かじたかおみ）

夜行妃古壱（やこうひこいち）

切間創一（きるまそういち）

雪井出薫（ゆきいでかおる）

ビリー・クレイグ

門倉雄大（かどくらゆうだい）

伽羅（きゃら）

喰喰い

第87話
迷い犬
CHAPTER 87: BEWILDERED DOG

E6
F6
F5
F4
……
E…
……
5

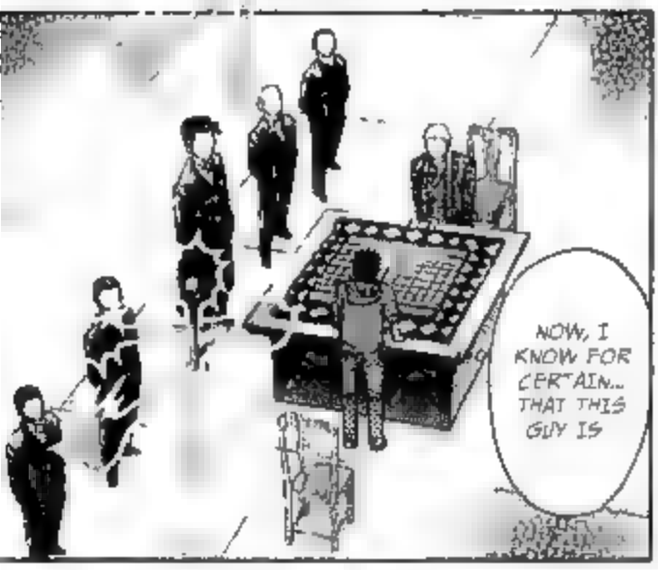
Yes.
THERE IS NO WALL.
YUKIIDE-SAMA WINS THIS ROUND WITH A STRAIGHT VICTORY.
!!

I...
I DID IT.

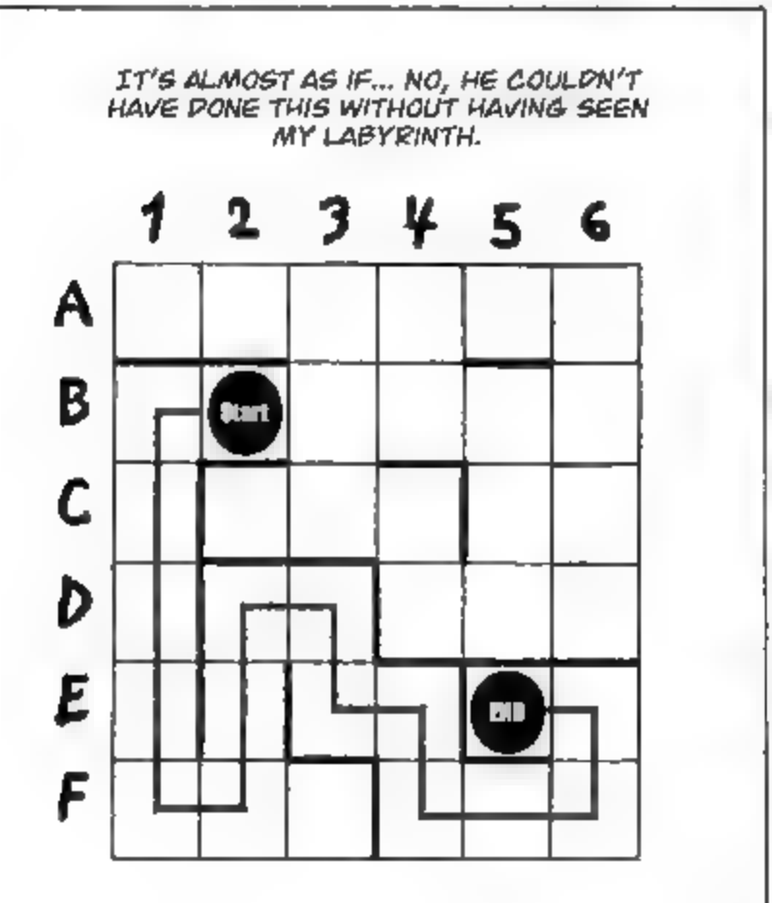
I SOLVED ANOTHER ONE!
I DID IT!

I DID!
ME!
I SOLVED ANOTHER LABY-RINTH!

THE GAME'S JUST BEGIN-NING.
IT'S...STIL. TOO EARLY TO CELE-BRATE.
.....


NOW, I KNOW FOR CER'AIN... THAT THIS GUY IS

I WON'T LET YOU WIN SO EASILY, NEXT TIME.
I STILL HAVE ME-MORIES TO BET.


IT'S ALMOST AS IF... NO, HE COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT HAVING SEEN MY LABYRINTH.
1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
F
Start
End

HE DIDN'T WASTE A BREATH.
CHEATING.
NOT ONCE DID HE EVER STRAY FROM THE CORRECT PATH! HE FOUND THE SHORTEST WAY TO THE GOAL...

I PROMISE THAT I WILL NOT CAUSE ANY HARM TO YOUR BODY.
I DIDN'T THINK THAT THERE'D BE ANY WAY HE'D RESORT TO CHEATING.
HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE. AFTER ALL... HE COULD'VE JUST KEPT MY MEMORIES FOR HIS OWN AFTER I TOLD HIM ABOUT THEM.
IT MAY SEEM LIKE I'VE GIVEN UP LIKE A COWARD, BUT I
LIEVE
HING
AT
ESS
INE
LET
GIN A
ND
TER
Y LIFE.
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D RIG THE GAME, SEEING AS HOW HE CHOSE SOMETHING SO RISKY LIKE GAMBLING TO GET SOMETHING AS TRIVIAL AS A MEMORY.

I SHOULD ADD A NO CHEATING RULE.
.....
TOO BAD FOR HIM, BUT STARTING FROM THE NEXT GAME. .
THIS WAS MY MISTAKE, FOR FOCUSING ON JUST THE NO-VIOLENCE RULE AND NOT SPECIFYING AGAINST CHEATING. .

!!
THERE WON'T BE A NEXT GAME, KAJI-KUN.
NO.

KADO-KURA-SAN.
UH...

FOR THE NEXT GAME..

.....
I STILL HAVE PLENTY OF MEMORIES! THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE A ONE-GAME DEAL!
W... WHAT?!
HJH?
YOU STILL HAVE MEMO-RIES?
...I BELIEVE I HEARD SOMETHING TO THAT EXTENT EARLIER, YES.
I don't...
trust that.

.....
You're the same as all the others! I thought that from the very start!
You!
Y-
Y-
Y-y-y...
Y-y-y...

All you want is money!
Mo-ney!
Y-y-y... you're just telling me made-up memories to... f-fool me!

I'M TELLING THE TRUTH! I'VE ONLY TOLD YOU TRUTHFUL MEMORIES!
THAT'S...!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
Ha!
Hahaha haha!

EVEN THOUGH I JUST SAID... THAT IT WAS OVER!
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT?!

IF I SAY IT'S OVER, THEN IT'S OVER, ISN'T IT?!

G... GO HOME! I HAVE THINGS TO DO NOW!
LEAVE!
...
KAJI-SAMA...
THIS GAME WAS NOT SPECIFIED THROUGH THE RULES TO HAVE MULTIPLE CHANCES.

AS LONG AS THE MAN WITH THE WALLET REFUSES TO PLAY, WE CANNOT PROCEED WITH THE GAME.
UNFOR-TUNATELY ...

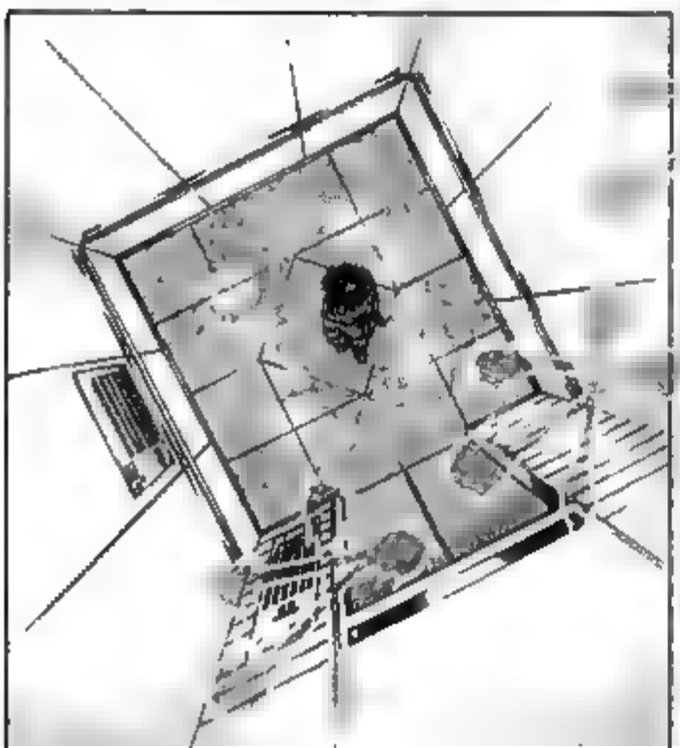
IT WAS SOMETHING YUKIIDE-SAMA STATED AS A POSSIBILITY... THAT WAS THE IMPRESSION I GARNERED.

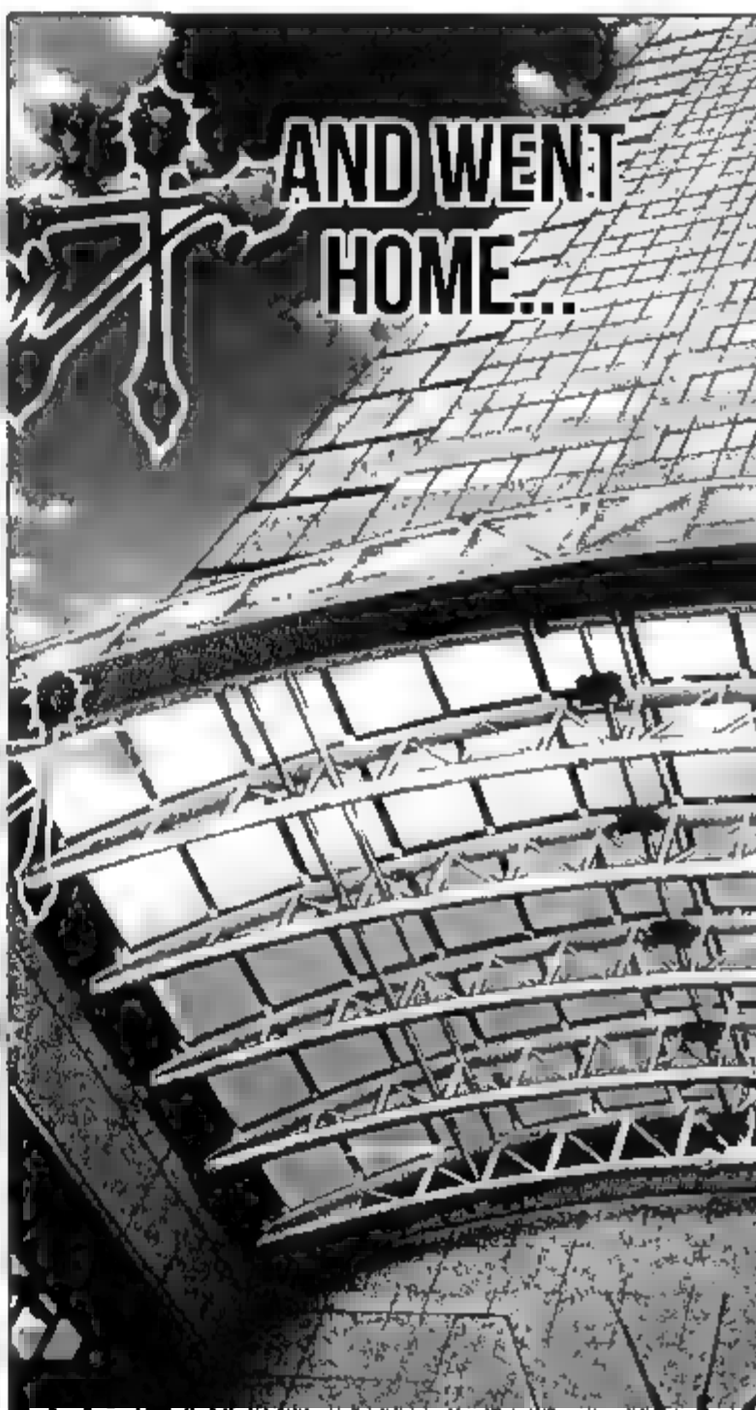
THE GAME IS OVER.

69
68
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
WHAT?
KADOKURA-SAN...
COULD YOU WAIT A LITTLE LONGER?
I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE NOW.
THE COLLE-CTION IS ENSURED.

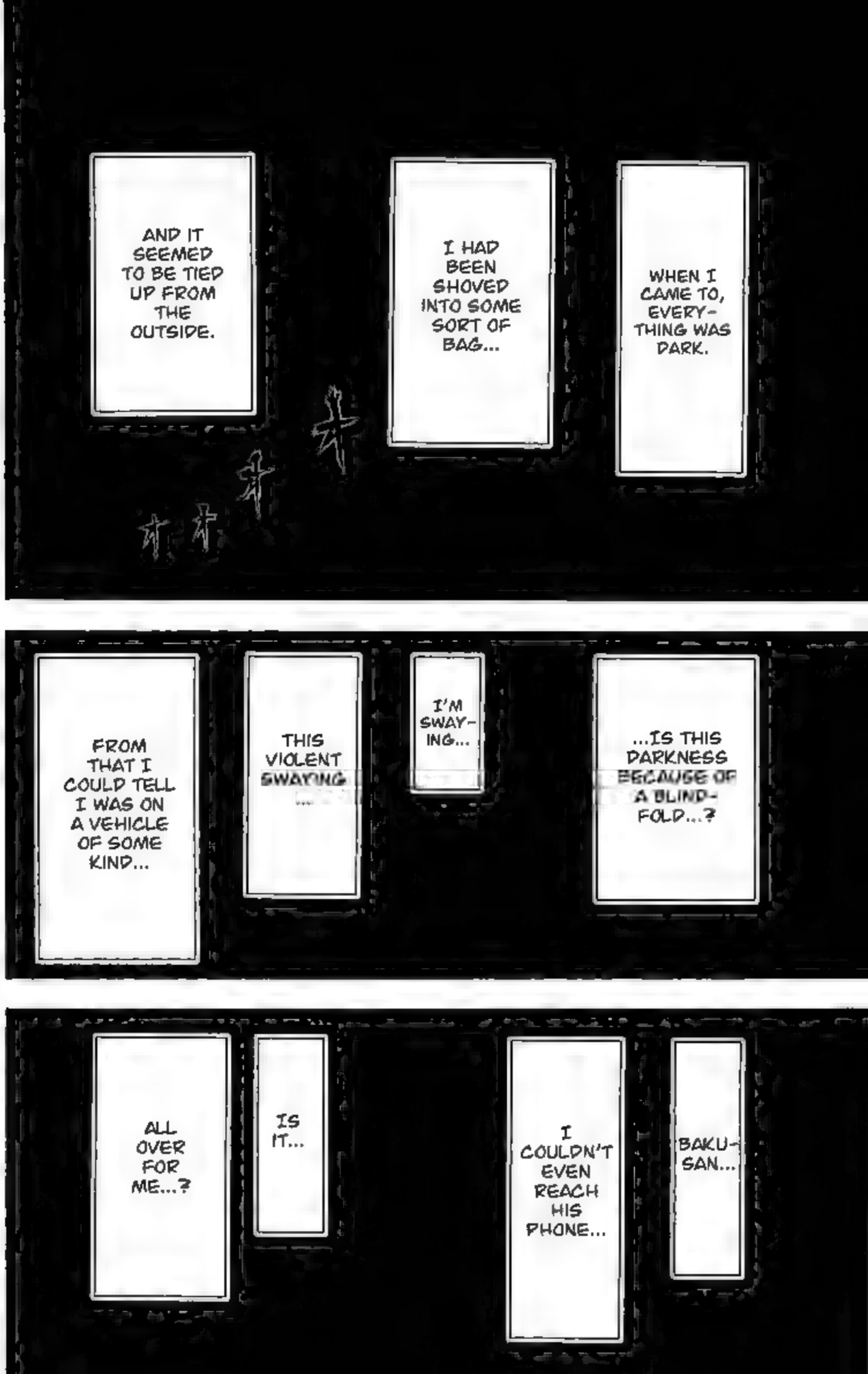
AND SO...
I WAS TAKEN BACK TO MY ORIGINAL LOCATION...

NOT KNOWING WHAT TERRIBLE THINGS WERE WAITING FOR ME...




AND WENT HOME...

!!!


AND IT SEEMED TO BE TIED UP FROM THE OUTSIDE.
I HAD BEEN SHOVED INTO SOME SORT OF BAG...
WHEN I CAME TO, EVERY-THING WAS DARK.
FROM THAT I COULD TELL I WAS ON A VEHICLE OF SOME KIND...
THIS VIOLENT SWAYING...
I'M SWAY-ING...
...IS THIS DARKNESS BECAUSE OF A BLIND-FOLD...?
ALL OVER FOR ME...?
IS IT...
I COULDN'T EVEN REACH HIS PHONE...
BAKU-SAN...

WH...
WHERE IS THIS...?
HA HA!
.....
HOW I'VE LONGED FOR THIS...
FOR A LOST LAMB LIKE YOU!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A VERY LONG TIME, YOU KNOW...

WELL, WELL...!
HOW VERY ADORABLE.
HAHA!
YOU WON'T BE GOING ANYWHERE NOW, MY PET...
FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

LAY OFF ON THE TEASING.
EXCELLENT!
THAT'S A GREAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE!
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE SEEING ANOTHER HUMAN FACE BESIDES MINE, KARL.
UH... UM... UHH....
WHAT...? HEY, DON'T LOOK AT ME.

I'LL KILL YOU,
YOU PATHETIC LOSER MUTT!

喰狼

THE MERCHANT OF DEATH, KARL.

HAHA! YOU BOUGHT SOME GOOD STUFF, MARS.

WHENEVER YOU'RE IN NEED OF WEAPONS, COME FIND ME,

SFX: FLICK

第88話 世界の成り立ち

CHAPTER 88: COMPOSITION OF THE WORLD

HAHA! WHATEVER HE DOES WITH THOSE WEAPONS IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS. PEOPLE WILL STILL KILL EACH OTHER EVEN I KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.

KARL!!

THE MER-CHANT OF DEATH!

THAT'S RIGHT, I'M GUILTY AS CHARGED, I'M THE INSTIGATOR OF THE WORLD WAR, I'M...

.....

ᑐᓴᓂᒪ

ᓯᓚᐃᓐᓂᐊᓕᖅ

ᑐᓴᓂᒪ

WAHA HAHA HAHA HA!!

YOBO

ガリ ガリ

EXCEL-LENT!

!!

AHE EEE EE!

SFX: SCRATCH X2

A GUY WHO CAN'T EVEN SMILE WITHOUT BEING COMPLETELY DRUNK... WHAT A PITIFUL BASTARD.

THAT DEATH DEALER'S BEING HAUNTED BY NIGHTMARES AND ROTTING AWAY, DAY BY DAY.

WHAT'S UP WITH HIM..?

WHAT...

……?

A FRIEND …?

BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE BROUGHT MUCH COMFORT.

HAVING A FRIEND COME OVER MADE HIM PRETTY HAPPY,

YES! SORRY!

OR I'LL KILL YOU!

HEY! I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO QUIT STARING AT ME!

EARLIER, YOU SAID BAKU-SAN ASKED YOU TO BRING ME HERE… WHY?

AH… UM…

BUT BAKU SEEMS TO VALUE YOU.

HONESTLY, I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO SAVE YOUR LOS-ER ASS…

HAHA!

LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE UN-WORTHY...

WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY THAT?

SAVE... ME?

YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND HOW THE WORLD TURNS, BUT IN FACT, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND NEARLY ENOUGH.

YOU THINK THAT YOU KNOW BUT REALLY, YOU DON'T... YOU ASSUME THAT YOU ARE CON-TEMPLATING, BUT YOU ARE NOT.

.....

...THAT FROM THE OH-SO-ORDINARY EVERYDAY LIFE,

YOU THINK ...

TOI

NO SUCH BOUNDARY EXISTS IN THIS WORLD.

EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE BEEN VERY CAUTIOUS, AND HAVE PREPARED YOURSELF IN ORDER TO SURVIVE IN THIS PLACE,

YOU HAVE STEPPED INTO A DARK WORLD FILLED WITH DEMONS.

I got i again!!

Sada-kuni...

NOR IS IT A WORLD OF DARKNESS FILLED WITH CORRUPTION AND EVIL.

THIS IS NOT A WORLD OF LIGHT, FILLED WITH PURITY AND GOOD.

THIS IS A PLACE WHERE THE TWO ARE INTERTWINED:

二つが濃厚に混じり合う

混沌 AMBIGUITY

YOU'VE BEEN LIVING THERE SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING,

IN THAT GREY WORLD COMPOSED NEITHER BLACK NOR WHITE. THERE IS NO CLEAR BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE TWO.

A PLACE WHERE ALL THINGS ARE MIXED TOGETHER, THIS IS THE WORLD THAT HUMANS INHABIT.

IF WE HAVE TO SEPARATE IT INTO BLACK OR WHITE, GOOD OR EVIL, I WOULD HAVE TO SAY,

THE DARKEST VILLAINS.

BECAUSE OF AMBIGUITY, THERE EXISTS SUCH A THING AS "LIFE".

.....

THAT THE ONES WHO'D RATHER KILL EACH OTHER, THOSE THIRSTY, DEATH SEEKING BEINGS WHO LIVE ON THIS PLANET,

THOSE SELF-RIGHTEOUS ONES FROM THOSE ADVANCED COUNTRIES SPREADING CORRUPTED MORALS AND TWISTED LOGIC IN THIS WORLD WHERE PEACE IS BUT A DISTANT DREAM, ARE IN FACT...

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS...

THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS GOOD OR EVIL IN THIS WORLD.

WE ARE BUT THE ONES LIVING IN THIS AMBIGUOUS PLACE...

BUT THAT IS JUST MY WAY OF SAYING ...

THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW ENOUGH...

WILL DIE SOONER.

THAT BY KNOWING THIS,

WILL LEAD YOU TO STOP DOUBTING AND START GAMBLING.

HAVING TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS THROUGH TWISTED LOGIC...

WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS RISK INVOLVED...

WHENEVER YOU'RE CAUGHT UP IN MATTERS SUCH AS THESE.

THIS IS WHY I SAID YOU WERE UNWORTHY.
YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY A HUGE PRICE.
WHAT...
WHAT DID I DO?
!
THIS JUST IN
REGARDING THE TERRIBLE MURDER THAT TOOK PLACE 3 YEARS AGO IN XX AREA
THE SUSPECT, 30 YEAR OLD UNEMPLOYED MASHU HIDESO,
HAS BEEN APPREHENDED.

摩周秀則容疑者(30)無職

IT WAS PRACTICALLY A DEAD END, UNTIL THE RECENT RAID ON AN UNDERGROUND CASINO. ONE OF ITS CUSTOMERS .

THIS CASE HAD VERY FEW CLUES TO GO ON, MAKING THE INVESTIGATION VERY DIFFICULT

IS MASHU!

THIS, THIS GUY...

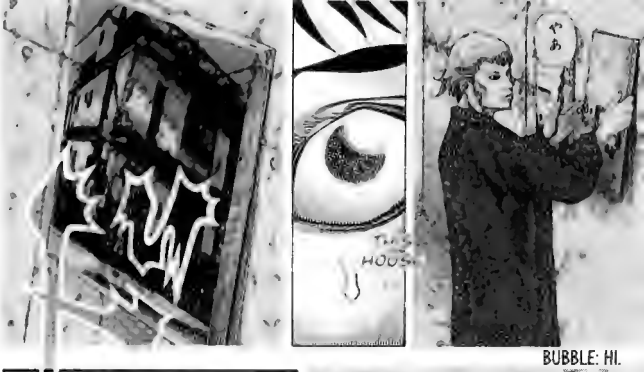
!!

!?

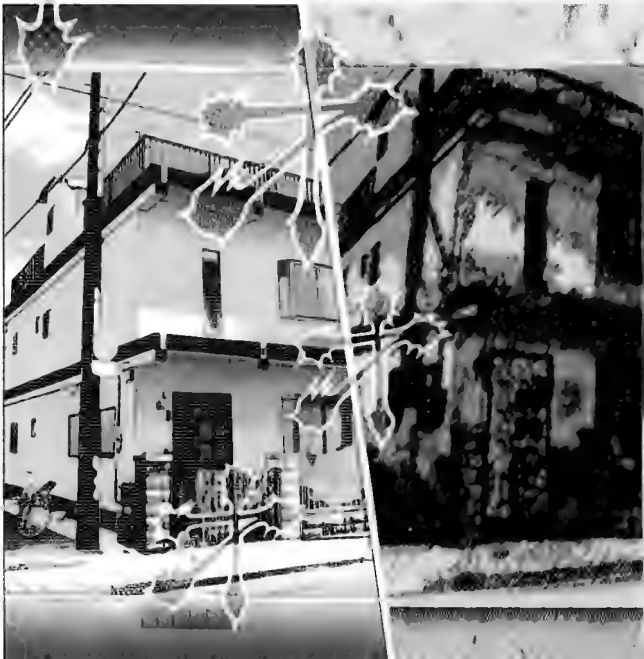
SO HE WAS A MURDERER?

EXPRESSED THEIR RELIEF UPON HEARING ABOUT THE SUSPECT'S ARREST

THE NEIGHBORING CITIZENS, TROUBLED BY THE DISTURBANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER,



BUBBLE: HI.



NO...

THIS...

DON'T...
DON'T TELL
ME...

MA...
MASHU

ISN'T THE
MURDERER...!

FINALLY
REALIZED
IT...?

WHAT'S
WRONG,
LOSER?

I
LOST
...

AND
WHAT GOT
TAKEN
WAS...

... YOUR...

NOVEMBER 5, 2004...

THE MURDER THAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY... DON'T... DON'T TELL ME...! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?!

MY ALIBI FOR THAT DAY...

MAYBE ONE OF THE HIGHER UPS. AND SO THE CRIME HE COMMITTED HAD TO BE IMPUTED TO FOOLS LIKE YOU.
THE REAL MURDERER IN THAT DAY'S CASE IS SOMEONE EVEN THE POLICE DON'T DARE TO REVEAL...
OF COURSE, YOU CAN'T SPEAK OUT... OR YOU'LL DIE.
YOUR ALIBI WILL BE FORFEIT.
ONCE KAKEROU COMES TO COLLECT THE WAGER,
EVEN IF YOU DID, KAKEROU WILL MAKE SURE THAT IT WON'T STAND IN COURT...
WELL THEN... WHAT'S YOUR GAME PLAN, USOGUI?
.....
YOU WILL DEFINITELY BE INDITED.
THEY WILL ABUSE THEIR POLITICAL SWAY. IF YOU LET YOURSELF GET ARRESTED BY THE POLICE...

YOU KNOW,

JUST AS USOGUI PREDICTED, THE REASON HE COULD BE BROUGHT BACK HERE WAS BE-CAUSE HE LOST SO QUICKLY.

IF HE ACTUALLY REALIZED THE TRUTH DURING HIS WAGER AND COULDN'T BACK DOWN, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BY THE POLICE LONG BEFORE I COULD HAVE ABDUCTED HIM...

SINCE TO LET HIM GET AWAY WOULD HAVE WASTED ALL THEIR EFFORTS...

OH MY!

DIS-GUIS-ING?

DISGUISING.

YOU DO HAVE LOTS OF POTENTIAL...

WHAT BIG EARS YOU HAVE!

GRAND MOTHER,

HIS ACTIONS DISGUISED HIS IDENTITY BASED ON LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD'S WORDS.

INDEED... THE BIG BAD WOLF.

ALL THE BETTER TO HEAR YOU WITH, MY DEAR.

IT'S A COMMON METHOD USED IN A WORLD WHERE ONLY WINNING MATTERS... THE CRAFTIER A PERSON IS, THE HARDER IT IS TO SEE THROUGH THE DISGUISE.

I HOPE YOU CAN WIN HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS.

CONCEALING ONE'S TRUE SELF BY EMPLOYING METHODS OF INTIMIDATION OR ACTING WEAK TO FOOL ONE'S OPPONENT.

WHO IS THE REAL EVIL HERE

SO THEN

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, ALTHOUGH YOU DISGUISED YOURSELF AS WEAK, WERE JUST AS WEAK ON THE INSIDE. NO WONDER YOU HAD NO HOPE.

THE WINNER OF THIS CONTEST OF DECEPTION #2

THE BIG BAD WOLF

OH MY!

OR THE LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD?

LOOK AT ALL THE DIFFERENT DAYS I HAVE!

WILL THE AMOUNT WAGERED BE DIFFERENT TOO?

OH MY!
第89話
潜入！ラビリンス
CHAPTER 89 - ENTER THE LABYRINTH!
LOOK AT ALL THE DIFFERENT DAYS I HAVE! WILL THE AMOUNT WAGERED BE DIFFERENT TOO?
……

第82話
潜入！ラビリンス
ENTER THE LABYRINTH!

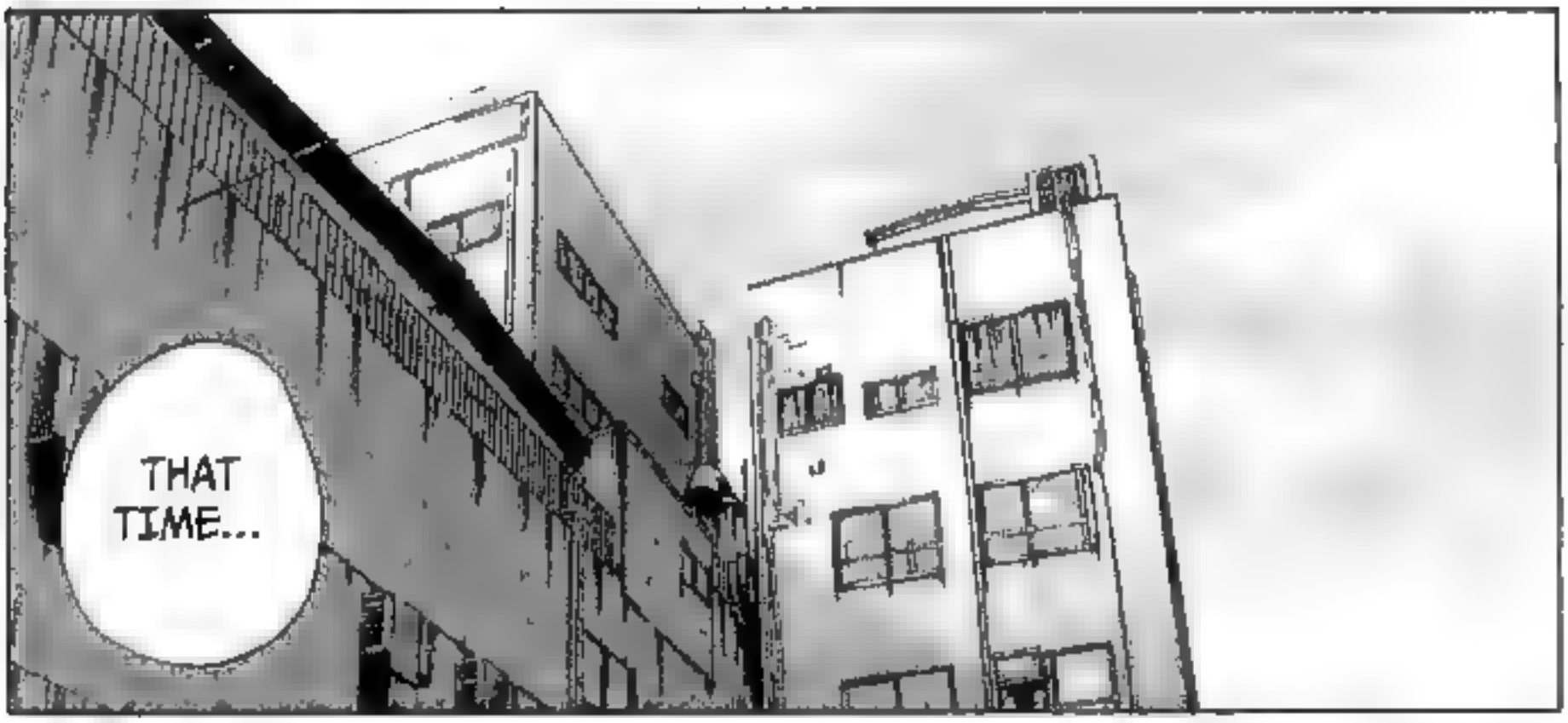
AN IMPORTANT DAY WOULD HAVE A HIGH VALUE, LIKE A BIRTHDAY OR AN ANNIVERSARY.
NATURALLY IT WOULD BE. EVERYONE HAS DIFFERENT DAYS THAT ARE EITHER IMPORTANT OR UNIMPORTANT TO THEM.
... WOULD THE AMOUNT WAGERED BE DIFFERENT, YOU ASK?

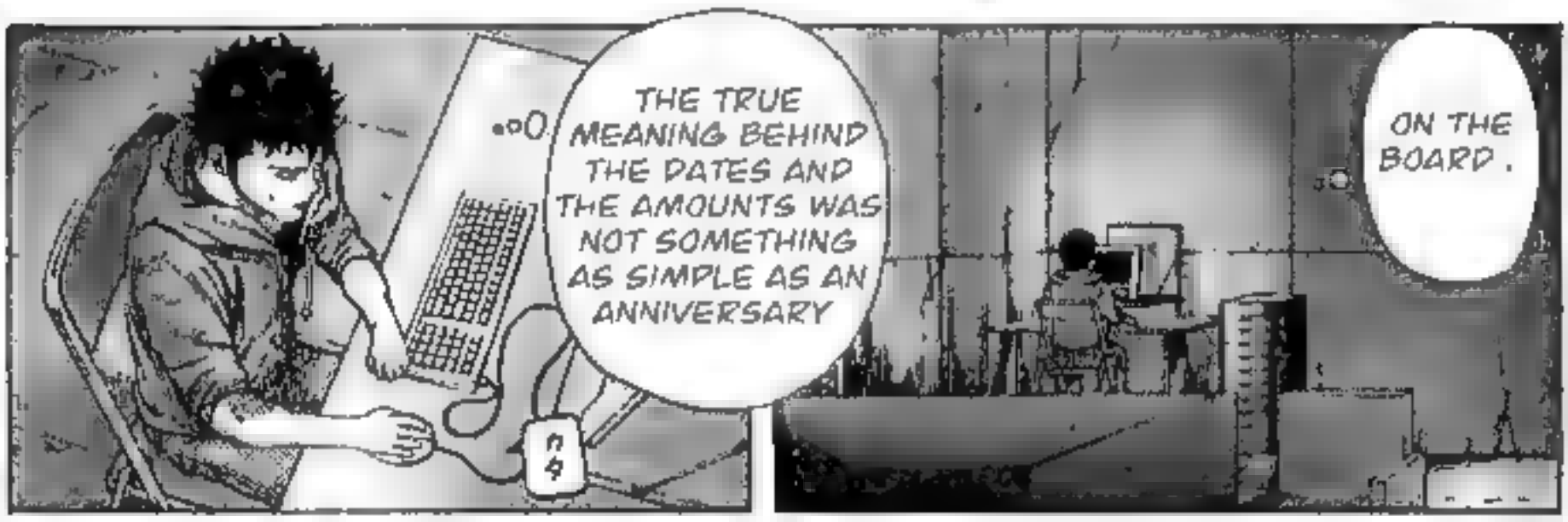
T/N: DATES ARE CATEGORIZED IN DIFFERENT AMOUNTS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT TEN, HUNDRED, THOUSAND, ETC.

拾
百
千
億
IF SO, I CAN PREPARE OTHER DATES.
... THAT YOU CAN RECALL?

.....
.....

嘘喰い❾。



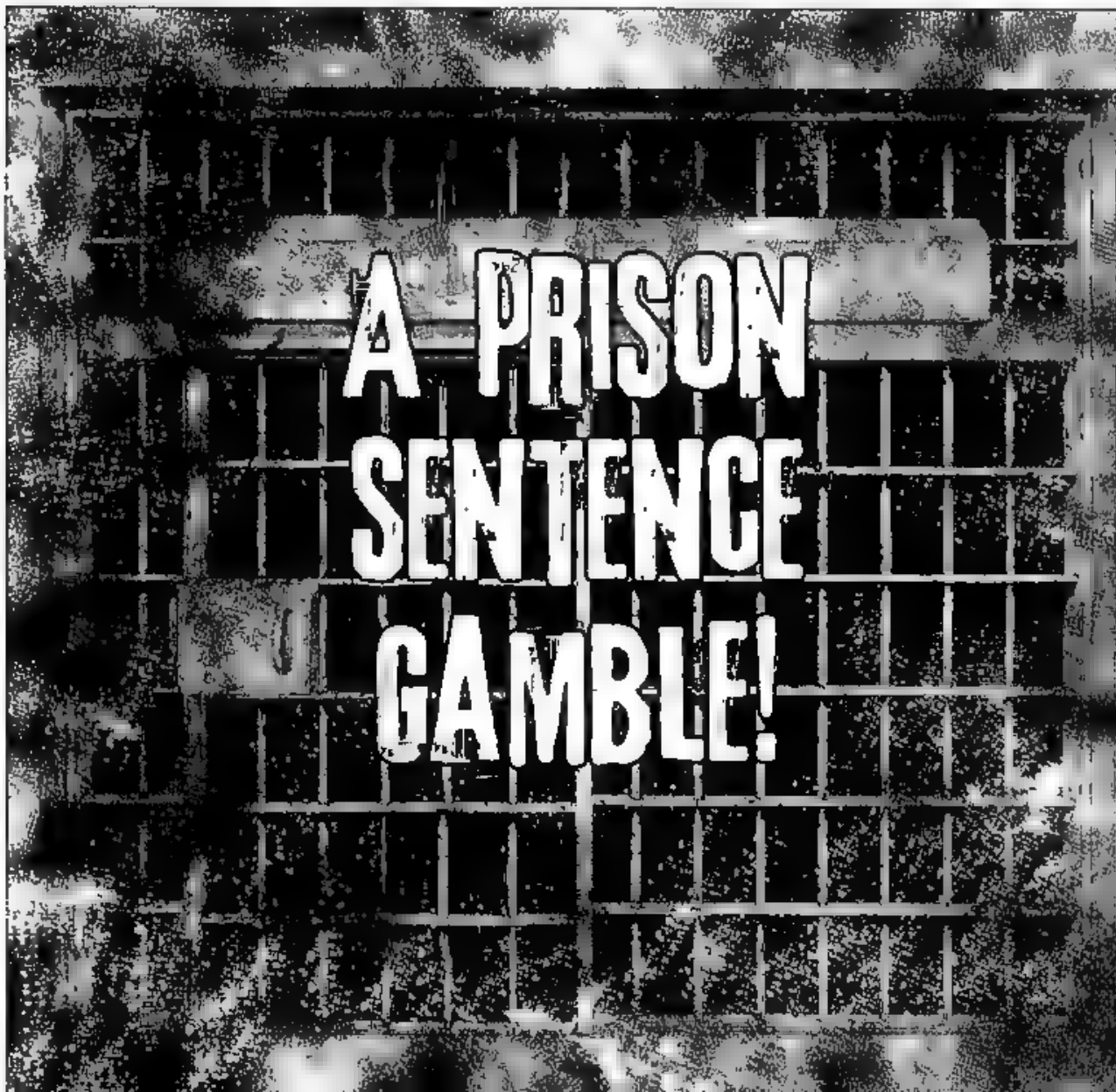


SFX: CLICK

SERIOUS CRIMES HAVE HIGH AMOUNT, WHILE LESSER CRIMES HAVE LOW AMOUNT...
THE AMOUNTS WERE ASSIGNED BASED ON THE SEVERITY OF THE CRIME.
THIS IS TO PREVENT THE REFEREE FROM NEEDING RECONFIRMATION FROM THE SCAPEGOAT.
CLICK

立会人 (TACHIAIIN) HAS BEEN TRANSLATED AS "REFEREE" IN PAST CHAPTERS

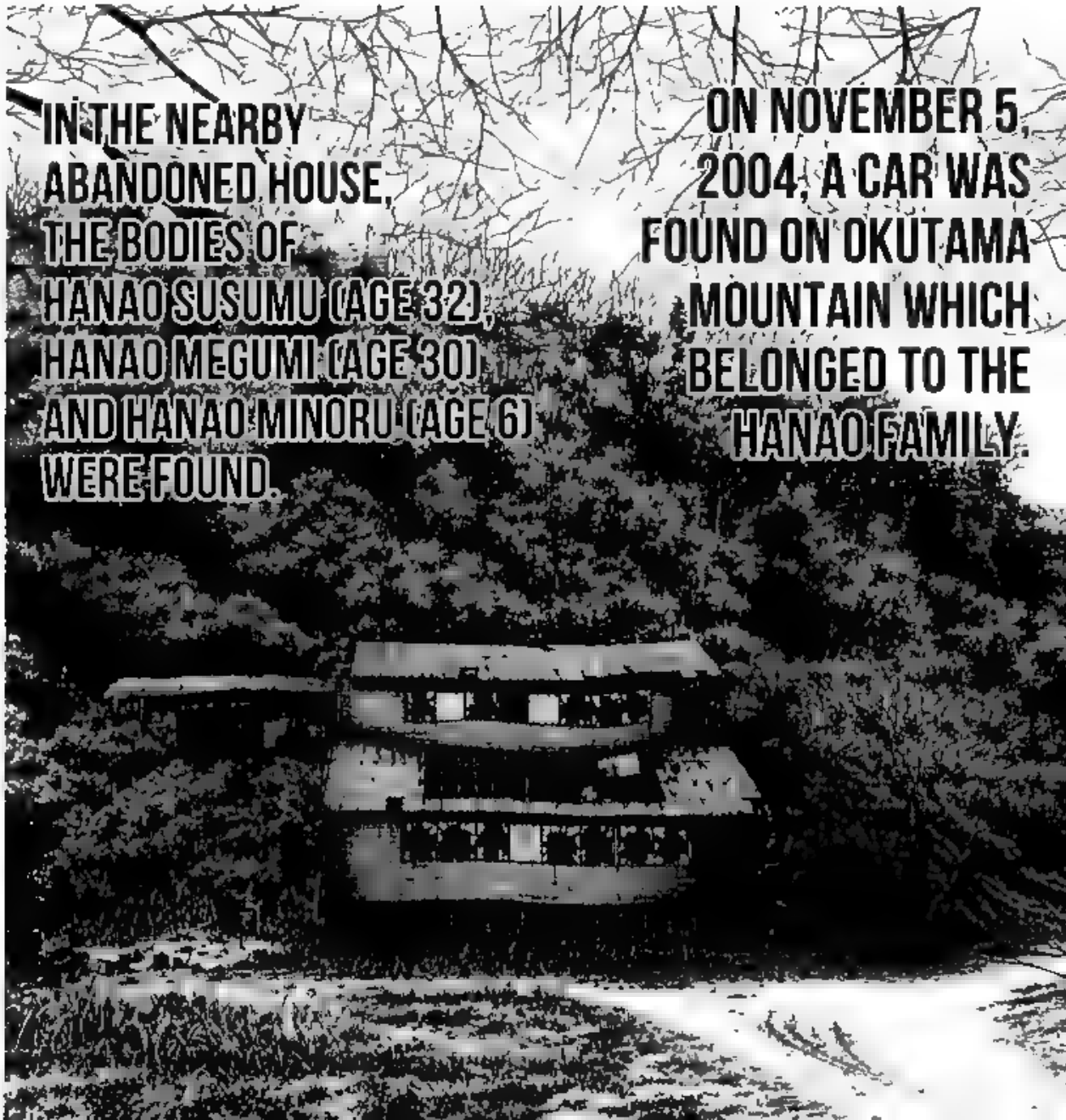
WITH AN ALIBI AS THE WAGER...
I WAS SET UP!

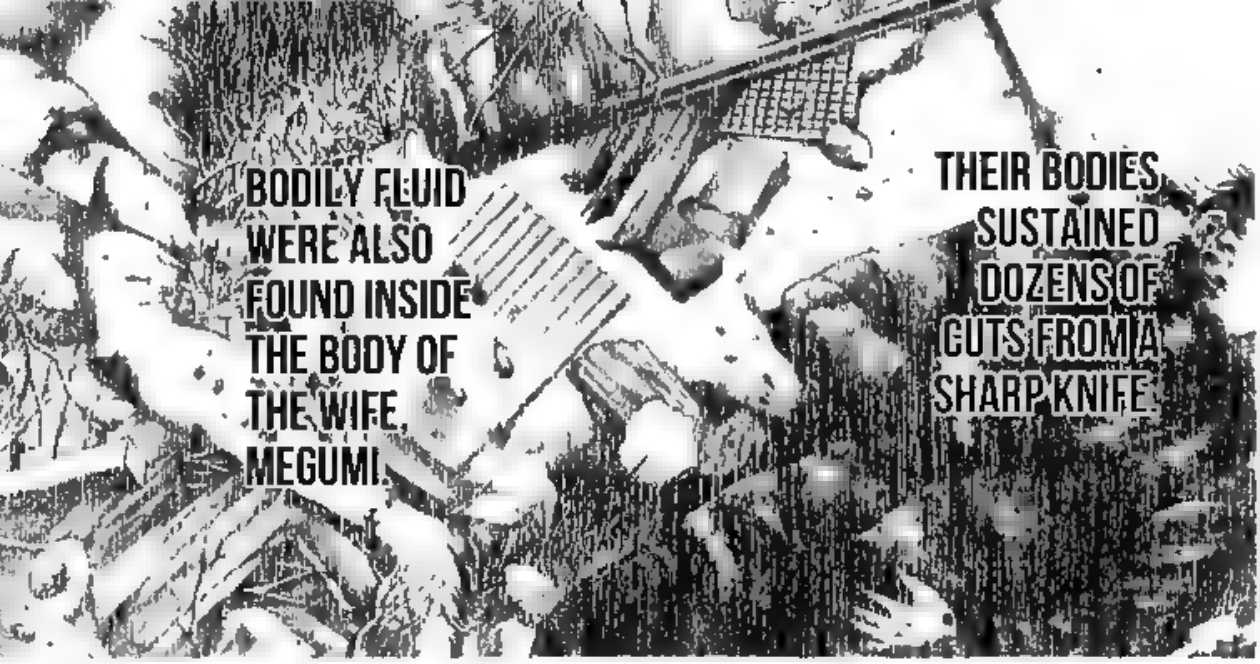

A PRISON SENTENCE GAMBLE!

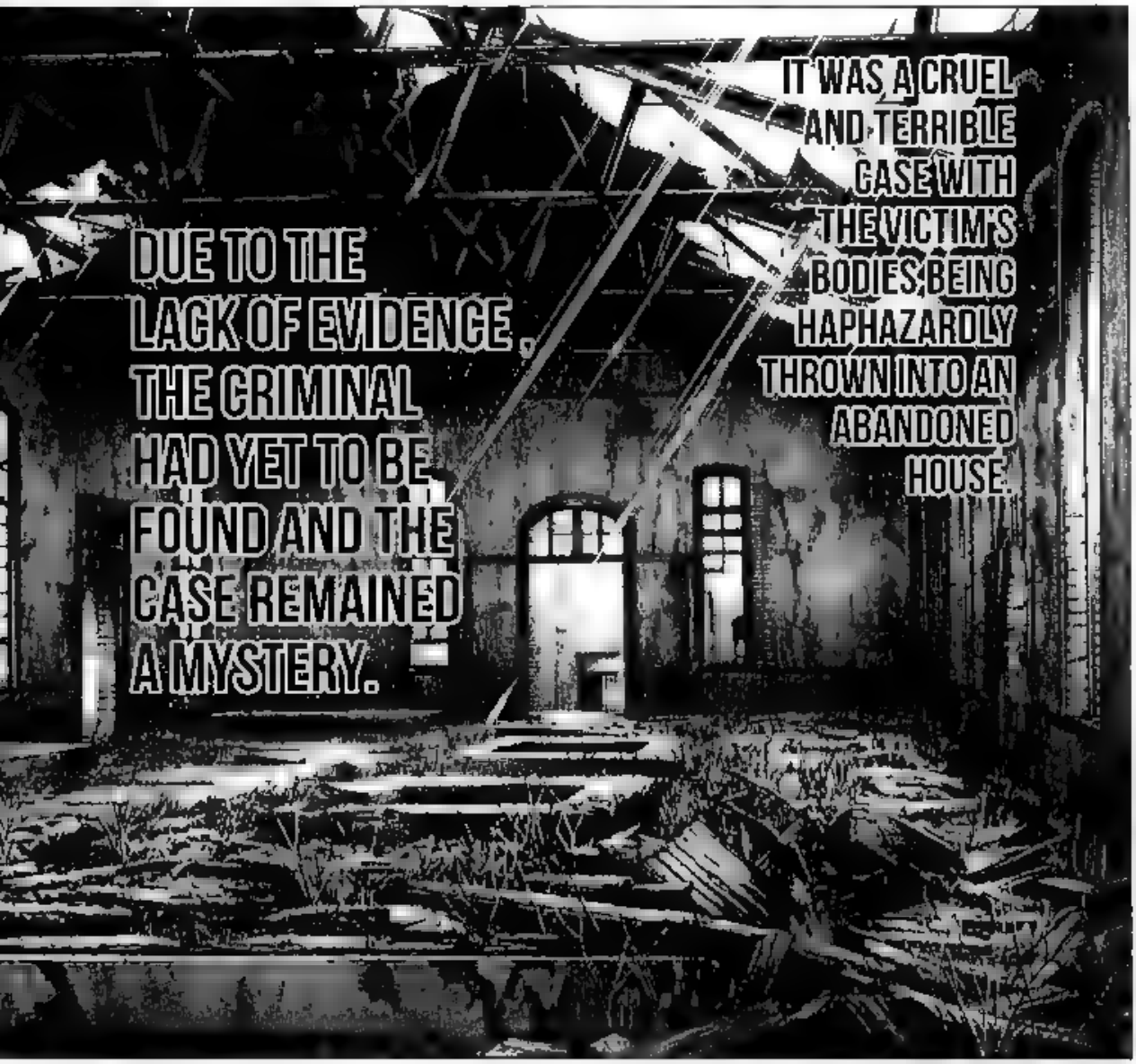
カチ
カチ
04年11月5日事
動画
日事件
カチャ
カチ。
パッ
WHAT MAJOR CRIME HAPPENED THAT DAY?! WHAT WAS IT?!
NOVEMBER 5, 2004
WHAT WAS IT?!
SFX: PA
EXCELLENT.
AH!
OH!
!!
OH.

OKUTAMA

THE MYSTERIOUS MURDER CASE IN AN ABANDONED HOUSE.


ON NOVEMBER 5, 2004, A CAR WAS FOUND ON OKUTAMA MOUNTAIN WHICH BELONGED TO THE HANAO FAMILY.
IN THE NEARBY ABANDONED HOUSE, THE BODIES OF HANAO SUSUMU (AGE 32), HANAO MEGUMI (AGE 30) AND HANAO MINORU (AGE 6) WERE FOUND.


BODILY FLUID WERE ALSO FOUND INSIDE THE BODY OF THE WIFE, MEGUMI.
THEIR BODIES SUSTAINED DOZENS OF CUTS FROM A SHARP KNIFE.


DUE TO THE LACK OF EVIDENCE, THE CRIMINAL HAD YET TO BE FOUND AND THE CASE REMAINED A MYSTERY.
IT WAS A CRUEL AND TERRIBLE CASE WITH THE VICTIM'S BODIES BEING HAPHAZARDLY THROWN INTO AN ABANDONED HOUSE.

YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT AT ALL.

...INDEED... YOU DIDN'T.

NO!

IT WASN'T ME!

GASP!

DIDN'T GASP!

DO IT!

NO!

I

BUT IF YOU WERE TO BE ARRESTED AS A SUSPECT AND UNABLE TO PROVIDE AN ALIBI FOR 5 NOVEMBER...

I...

I...

.....

DIDN'T DO IT!

I DIDN'T DO IT!

君は
終わりだ
IT WOULD MEAN THE END OF YOU.

KYARA-KUN, ISN'T IT BETTER TO JUST STAY HERE... WITH ME?
.....

WHAT ...
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THE SENTENCE IS DEATH.
EVEN IF THE COURT SHOWS LENIEN-CY,
AT THE VERY LEAST, IT WOULD STILL BE LIFE LONG IMPRISON-MENT.

I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!

THIS IS INJUST-ICE!

I JUST NEED A LAWYER ...

AFTER ALL, I DIDN'T DO IT,

DID I?

YOU!

FORGET IT, IT IS USELESS...

AND THEY ALL THINK LIKE THAT AT FIRST;

"I DIDN'T DO IT! SO, I WILL BE FINE! THERE MUST BE A WAY!"

DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE FOUND GUILTY FOR CRIMES THEY DIDN'T COMMIT IN THIS WORLD?

BUT THEY SOON REALIZE THAT REALITY DOESN'T ROLL LIKE THAT.

AND DUE TO VARIOUS FACTORS, THE TRUTH RARELY GETS REVEALED.

TO LET KAKEROU INTERFERE WAS TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THEIR PLAN .

THE POLICE CAN EASILY COME UP WITH SOME FAKE EVIDENCE IF THEY WANTED TO.

ON THE EXTREME SIDE, EVEN THOSE WITH AN ALIBI CAN STILL BE MADE A CRIMINAL.

WAIT... HOLD ON A SECOND...

賭郎= KAKEROU, THE NAME OF THE GAMBLING ORGANIZATION AT THE HEART OF THIS SERIES

WHY ARE THEY MAKING ME A SUSPECT IN A MURDER CASE?! IT'S AS IF THE POLICE ARE TRYING TO...

MAKES NO SENSE

WHAT YOU JUST SAID.

WHY IS THE POLICE? WHY IS THE POLICE AFTER ME...

FOLLOWED THE LIMOUSINE YOU WERE IN... WHERE DID YOU THINK YOU WERE GAMBLING?

I...

THAT PRIVATE LIMOUSINE,

THEY'RE ACCOM-PLICES.

I COULDN'T SEE WHAT IS OUTSIDE FROM INSIDE THE CAR...

WELL... I DON'T KNOW.

WENT INTO THE POLICE STATION,

THEN DIS-APPEARED.

THAT THE ONE WHO COMMITTED THAT TERRIBLE CRIME HAD SUCH HIGH AUTHORITY EVEN THE POLICE CAN'T TOUCH, REQUESTED THEM TO MAKE YOU A SCAPEGOAT.

I'M AFRAID ...

THAT MEANS, THE ONE WHO YOU WAGERED AGAINST COULD VERY WELL BE FROM THE POLICE

AND THE MONEY USED FOR THE WAGER WAS PROBABLY THE COMMISSION FEE PAID BY THE REAL CRIMINAL.

AND THE REAL CRIMINAL WOULD GO FREE.

WITH A SCAPEGOAT AT HAND, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO DECLARE THAT MYSTERIOUS CASE SOLVED.

EVEN THE POLICE IS THEIR ACCOMPLICE... COME TO THINK OF IT, THOSE PEOPLE AT THE TIME DID SEEM A BIT STRANGE...

KACHA KACHA

POL-

IN OTHER WORDS, THEIR INTERESTS COINCIDE

EVERYONE WOULD BE HAPPY WITH THE OUTCOME.

A HUNDRED MILLION YEN FOR FREEDOM IS PRETTY CHEAP.

APPARANTLY THE HAIR SAMPLES AND THE SKIN SCRAPS FOUND UNDER THE VICTIM'S FINGERNAILS AT THE CRIME SCENE...

THE POLICE HAS DIVULGED ONE OF THE REASONS FOR BELIEV-ING THAT MASHU WAS INDEED THE CULPRIT.

!!

NOW CON-TINUING WITH RELATED NEWS.

こいつは…

ガリッ

あれっの…

ストッップ!!

...MATCH THE DNA OF THE SUS-PECT, MASHU.

CONTACT THAT GUY... AND,
PART OF... THE SKIN...
WHEN I WAS SCRATCHED,
THE SKIN SCRAPS THAT WERE GOUGED OUT
THE HAIRS THAT WERE YANKED OUT
AND,
THE ALIBI ON THE DAY WHICH I DON'T HAVE...

EVERYTHING INCLUDING THE CORRUPTED GAMBLE...

WAS ALL PLANNED TO PERFECTION...

ACCORDING...

TO THAT DEVIL'S SCHEME.

BAKU-KUN... HAVE YOU DECIDED?

SO?

WHICH DAY'S MEMORIES YOU WILL BET WITH?

PLEASE DON'T BE MISTAKEN.

I'M NOT BETTING IT...

AS I SAID I DIDN'T CHOOSE IT BECAJSE OF THE MONEY.

.....

A HUNDRED MILLION.

FOR THE MONEY. THE AMOUNT FOR THAT DAY'S MEMORY WILL BE...

ON THAT DAY,

OF COURSE I BELIEVE YOU. GO ON, SAY IT.

I KILLED
SOMEONE.

1997 6月 30日
7月 11日
12月 5
2000 9月 1
11月
12月 1
2 5月
HUH?
10月 1
11月 19
2004 2
1999 1月 18日
4月 25日
8月 9日
月 22日
月 9日
月 31日
10
12
9月 30日
6日
1998
2001
2003
2005
2006

EVEN IF I WERE TO GIVE THIS MEMORY TO YOU,

BUT... IT'S NO GOOD, IS IT?

YOU...

IT WON'T BE PLEASING TO YOU AT ALL.

TO THE POLICE.

THIS IS NOT ABOUT A MEMORY NOW, IS IT?

...

I CAN'T JUST SIT IDLY KNOW-ING THIS...

YOU NEED TO GO IMME-DIATELY.

第90話 遺れの名は…

CHAPTER 90 THE NAME OF THE COMPANION

COME ON NOW.

HEAR ME OUT FIRST.

WAIT!

WAIT, WAIT!

SHALL I CALL THEM RIGHT NOW?

?

WHEN I SAY I KILLED SOMEBODY, IT'S NOT LIKE I DID ANYTHING WRONG.

THAT'S JUST THE WAY I FEEL.

WHAT I REALLY MEAN IS THAT I FEEL BAD ABOUT IT... I FEEL GUILTY BECAUSE I FEEL I HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITY.

IF I DID, I'M THE KIND OF MAN THAT WOULD HAND HIMSELF OVER TO THE POLICE RIGHT AWAY.

OF COURSE I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE.

NAH HAHAHA, SORRY ABOUT THAT

HAHA, I'M ONLY KIDDING, I KNEW YOU WEREN'T A KILLER.

IS THAT SO?

I DIDN'T ACTUALLY KILL ANYONE.

FOR A MOMENT I ACTUALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE A MURDERER.

YOU GAVE ME A FRIGHT.

AAAA

THEY'RE BOTH LOOKING AT EACH OTHER THROUGH A CRACK IN A CLOSED DOOR, TRYING TO CONTROL THE OTHER'S PERCEPTIONS.
THIS IS GREAT TO WATCH... THIS IS A GAME OF DECEPTION.

USOGUI WHO WENT INTO THIS BET, PERHAPS EVEN KNOWING THE WHOLE STORY FROM THE START.
IF HE DOES KNOW THE WHOLE STORY, USOGUI HAS A SLIGHT ADVANTAGE.

YUKIIDE WHO IS TRYING TO MAKE HIS OPPONENT CONFESS THE DATE OF THE CRIME BY USING THE WORD "MEMO-RIES"...

SOMETHING LIKE THAT THE FIRST ONE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SCOUTING... IT WOULD ONLY BE NATURAL FOR H.M TO THINK THIS WAS SOME KIND OF A SET UP.

IF TWO CONSECJTIVE KAKEROU MEMBERS COME, EVEN YUKIIDE WILL SUSPECT SOMETHING.

...

WAT ...

IN THIS GAME OF DECEPTION, I WONDER HOW MUCH THEY ACTUALLY KNOW ABOUT EACH OTHER.

KAKEROU MEMBERS COME AND GO... IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT THAT YUKIIDE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT USOGUI, THEN AGAIN...

I DON'T KNOW.

HMM ...

I'M NOT COMFORTABLE TELLING THIS STORY IN FRONT OF STRANGERS.

OKAY THEN.

LET'S HEAR IT... YOUR STORY.

THIS GUY...

THIS...

!

UHMM... REFEREE... KADOKURA, RIGHT?

WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE? LIKE, WHAT'S A REFEREE?

AND WHAT'S WITH THE SUPER LONG SUIT?

WHETHER A MEMBER USES THE SERVICES HE'S ENTITLED TO IS UP TO HIM.

IN A MATCH BETWEEN TWO MEMBERS, MOST WILL CALL A REFEREE WHO WILL LIKELY RULE IN THEIR FAVOR...

.....

IT SEEMS USOGUI IS GOING TO FIGHT BY USING A DISGUISE AND THE OTHERS AS A TOOL.

HE'S TRYING TO DISGUISE HIMSELF.

COULD HE BE PLANNING SOMETHING?

"BUT... IF HE REALLY WAS TRYING TO DISGUISE HIMSELF, WHY DID HE INTRODUCE HIMSELF SO EAGERLY BEFORE...?

OH.

I'M BAKU.

I AM A MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZATION WHERE...

NOW, NOW, BAKU-KUN.

...

OR DOES THIS MAN REALLY HAVE NO INTEREST IN OTHER KAKEROU MEMBERS?

OH, I'M SORRY, I'M ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO JUST CAN'T KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT

I'M KIND OF STRUGGLING TO BELIEVE IT, BUT NEVER MIND.

COLLECTING AND REFEREEING EH? I NEVER KNEW SUCH PEOPLE EXISTED... KAKEROU, HUH...

I SEE!

FOR KAJI, YUKIIDE HAD CALLED FOR A NEUTRAL REFEREE.

NOT ONE EXCLUSIVE TO HIM.

I WON'T SAY ANY-THING.

IT'S F.NE.

AS TEMPTED AS I WAS, I GAVE AWAY NOTHING TO KAJI.

THERE ARE REFEREES WHO'LL TAKE A MEMBERS SIDE AS MUCH AS THE RULES WILL ALLOW IT. ALL OF THIS SO THAT KAJI WON'T FIGURE OUT THE TRICKS OF THIS BET...

AT LEAST FOR ME, THE TRICK BEHIND THE BET WASN'T REVEALED TO KAJI,..

NOT REVEALING USOGUI'S IDEN-TITY TO YUKIIDE WOULD BE THE MOST NEUTRAL THING TO DO.

百

千

億

1997 6月 30日
7月 11日
12月 5日

000 9月 1日
11月 7日
12月 15日

002 5月 8日
10月 11日
11日

004

199

20

2004 1月
7月 12日
30日
日

2005 3月 5日
7月 21日
8月 2日

2006 2月 17日
4月 2日
6月 10日

BESIDES... EVEN IF THEY WERE TO GET A DATE FROM THIS BET, IT DOESN'T GUARANTEE THAT ANYTHING WILL ACTUALLY HAPPEN.

WHETHER THERE WILL BE A COLLECTION OR HE SPENDS A LIFE TIME WITHOUT ANYTHING HAPPENING AFTER THIS, IS ENTIRELY UP TO YUKIIDE.

NOW PLEASE, TELL ME.

ALTHOUGH I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE IF YUKIIDE IS NOT JUST PRETEND-ING TO NOT KNOW WHO USOGUI IS.

I BEGAN THE DAY FEEL.NG A BIT SLUGGISH.

NOVEMBER 23RD, 1998. FOR SOME REASON I HADN'T GOT MUCH SLEEP THE N.GHT BEFORE.

I WAS DEBATING THIS WITH MYSELF WHILE I PLAYED POOYAN.

THEN WHEN I REACHED STAGE 3, I TOOK A BREAK.

I THINK THE EEL WAS BAD...

I'D NEVER ACTUALLY GOTTEN PAST STAGE 2 BEFORE.

PR NOTE: POOYAN IS AN OLD ARCADE GAME ABOUT A PIG TRYING TO RESCUE HER PIGLETS WHO HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY A PACK OF WOLVES.

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I LOVE TO GAMBLE.

I HAD PLANNED TO BET A FAIRLY LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT DAY, AND I WAS WONDERING IF BEING NERVOUS ABOUT THIS BET WAS WHAT KEPT ME UP THE NIGHT BEFORE,

OR IF IT WAS BECAUSE I ATE EEL WITH PICKLED PLUMS.

YOU KNOW HOW THEY SAY YOU SHOULDN'T EAT EEL AND PLUM TOGETHER?

HEY!

HOLD ON, BAKJ-KUN.

IT ALLOWS YOU TO JUST PLAY WITHOUT THINKING TOO MUCH ABOUT THE GAME.

SO I TOOK A BREAK TO WIPE THE SWEAT OFF MY FACE AND TO CALM DOWN.

BUT SOMEHOW, THAT DAY, I MANAGED TO GET TO STAGE 3 WITHOUT A SINGLE MISTAKE.

I GUESS WHEN YOU PLAY WHILE YOUR MIND IS SOMEWHERE ELSE,

OH, UH- JUST KEEP LISTEN- ING,

WE'LL GET TO THAT PART SOON.

I JUST WANT TO HEAR THAT PART.

YOU HAVE SOME GOOD MEMORIES THERE.

AND ER... ABOUT THE PERSON YOU FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING, WHEN DOES HE COME INTO THIS STORY OF YOURS?

AND WHEN I EVENTJALLY CAME HOME ...

I WAS SHOCKED

ANYWAYS, I DECIDED TO GO OUT FOR A CHANGE.

HARU WAS A FRIEND OF MINE.

YEAH.

HARJ?

PLAYING POOYAN.

HARU WAS IN THE ROOM.

MY FRIEND.

HE WAS...

I KNOW! I BOUGHT US SOME CRUNCHY PICKLED PLUMS, LET'S HAVE SOME.

BAKU! MY BAD, BRO. DON'T BE SO MAD.

THEN...

...

I'D JUST GOT BACK FROM EATING OUT FOR DINNER, BUT I FELT KIND OF BAD FOR GETTING PISSED AT HIM FOR SUCH A TRIVIAL THING... SO I HAD SOME PICKLED PLUMS.

HARU HAD STARTED FROM STAGE 3 AND LOST.

I'M NOT EASILY ANGERED, BUT THIS REALLY PISSED ME OFF.

WAIT, HOLD ON A MOMENT

I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING.

SORRY, BUT JUST GIVE ME A SECOND

WHAT IS IT?

KADO-KURA-SAN?

HOW DO YOU...

COLLECT ON THIS BET?

...

!!

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

YOU WANT TO KNOW THAT NOW, USOGUI?

...

AROUSING YUKIIDE'S SUSPICION WOULD ONLY WORK AGAINST USOGUI.

IF YOU WANTTO THROW YUKIIDE OFF HIS GUARD, ASKING THAT NOW IS THE WRONG MOVE.

IT'S BEST TO PLAY THE FOOL AND NOT GET TOO DEEP INTO THIS.

嘘喰い⑧。

IF I LOSE, YOU'LL TAKE MY MEMOR.ES RIGHT? MR. COLLECTOR?

SAY, IF I LOST A GREAT SUM OF MONEY THAT DAY, OR IF I WERE IN DEBT, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?

YOU CAN SAY IT ISN'T POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE THE AUTHENTICITY OF BAKJ-SAMA'S STORY AS YOU REMEMBER IT. THERE MAY BE SOME FACTS WE CAN CONFIRM, BUT THERE WILL ALSO BE SOME WE CANNOT.

...WELL

THIS IS GOING TO SOUND COM-PLICATED BUT...

ATHENS 2004

IT WOULD BE IMPOS-SIBLE FOR JS TO TAKE THAT.

SAY, IF BAKJ-SAMA WINS A GOLD MEDAL AT THE OLYMPICS.

WE CANNOT CHANGE THE MEMORIES OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, OR CHANGE RE-CORDS.

...

FOR US TO COL-LECT, IT WOULD MEAN THAT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS ON THE DATE WE PICK WILL BE WIPED CLEAN... WE'LL TAKE NO PART IN SOMETHING THAT COULD BE FABRICATED, SUCH AS DEBTS.

WE WILL COLLECT IN WHATEVER WAY THAT IS WITH.N OUR CAPACITY.

OF COURSE, THERE ARE L.MITS TO THAT CAPACITY.

DID YOU WIN IT? A GOLD MEDAL?

SO...?

NO WAY, OF COURSE NOT.

A GOLD MEDAL?

YUKIIDE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE MEMORIES OF SUCH DATES ANYWAY

SINCE WHEN DID THE STORY GET SO BIG?

IT WILL DO NOTHING TO HIS ALIBI.

THEN I'LL CONTINUE MY STORY

OH WELL, THAT'S FINE. I GET IT NOW.

YOU JUST DO WHAT YOU CAN.

SO THE COLLECTION PROCESS ISN'T SET IN STONE THEN HUH?

!

BAKU-KUN.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

NO.

嘘喰い⑨。

YOU'RE GONNA SAY YOU WERE DRUGGED OR SOME-THING.
YOU ATE THOSE PICKLED PLUMS AND YOU FELL ASLEEP...
...

... I ALREADY KNOW...

AND YOUR FRIEND GOT INVOLVED IN SOME .NCIDENT THERE, NEVER TO RETURN AGAIN.
AND YOUR FR.END WENT TO THAT BET, LEAVING YOU ASLEEP.

BUT YOUR FR.END WAS THE ONE WHO BETRAYED YOU, YES? FR.ENDS ARE LIKE THAT... HEH HEH HEH.

...
...

...
I BET THAT'S HOW THE STORY GOES. AM I RIGHT?
AND YOU FEEL GUILTY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FRIEND. THAT'S MY GUESS.

THAT'S FINE, WE'LL TAKE THAT DAY.

NOT ALL MEMORIES ARE PLEA-SANT.

LET'S START THE GAME.

LABY-RINTH.

THE ONE WHO GETS OUT FIRST WINS.

IT WILL BE JUST ONE SHOT.

BUT IF YUKIIDE IS AWARE OF THE THREAT, HE WILL PLAY TO WIN FROM THE START.

SINCE HE'S PLAYING THE FOOL, HE PROBABLY WON'T MENTION THE NO CHEA-TING RULE.

THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE GAME WITH KAJI.

HE'S GOING TO DO THIS PRETEN-DING HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT KAKEROU OR THE ALIBI.

USOGUI HAS NO CHANCE OF WINNING.

IF YUKIIDE MAKES THE FIRST MOVE...

I HAVE JUST ONE CONDITION FOR YOU...

BAKU-KUN! I AM THE ONE OFFERING YOU A HUNDRED MILLION FOR YOUR MEMORIES SO...

THE FIRST MOVE.

I WILL MAKE

第91話
最高の客席
CHAPTER 91: THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE

OF COURSE, THIS IS JUST FOR THE FIRST GAME.

IF YOU COME UP WITH ANOTHER DATE, YOU WILL GET THE FIRST MOVE FOR THAT GAME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, USOGUI ..

...

AFTER SHOWING HIM THE HUNDRED MILLION,

YUKIIDE DEMANDS THAT HE GETS THE FIRST MOVE.

I'M SORRY, I'LL EXPLAIN.

YES... OF COURSE... I UNDER-STAND.

BUT I THINK IT'S NATURAL THAT I'D WANT TO KNOW HOW TO PLAY THIS "LABYRINTH" GAME.

ABOUT THIS MATCH...

I KNOW THAT I'M THE ONE BEING GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY... SO I'D LIKE TO MEET YOUR DEMAND...

OK.

I SEE... 20 WALLS, HUH...? GOT IT.

SOUNDS LIKE AN IN-TERESTING GAME.

A

3

3 4 5 6

IF THAT'S THE CASE, HE WON'T HAVE THE CHANCE TO GO INTO HIDING LIKE KAJI DID. HE'LL BE FINISHED.

A *WARNING* THAT SAYS THERE IS A POSSIBILITY USOGUI COULD BE CAPTURED AS SOON AS HE LOSES...

HIM DEMAN-DING THE FIRST MOVE IS PROOF.

HE'S GIVING SOME KIND OF *WARNING* TO THE MAN BEFORE HIM.

IF YUKIIDE GOES FIRST, THE MATCH WILL END BEFORE USOGUI EVEN GETS A TURN.

YOU CAN HAVE THE FIRST MOVE.

BESIDES, THIS LABY-RINTH TYPE OF GAME...

THAT'S NEARLY IM-POSSIBLE... SO, WHOEVER GETS THE FIRST MOVE ISN'T REALLY A PROBLEM.

IT'S NOT THE KIND OF GAME YOU CAN CLEAR IN ONE TURN.

YES

...

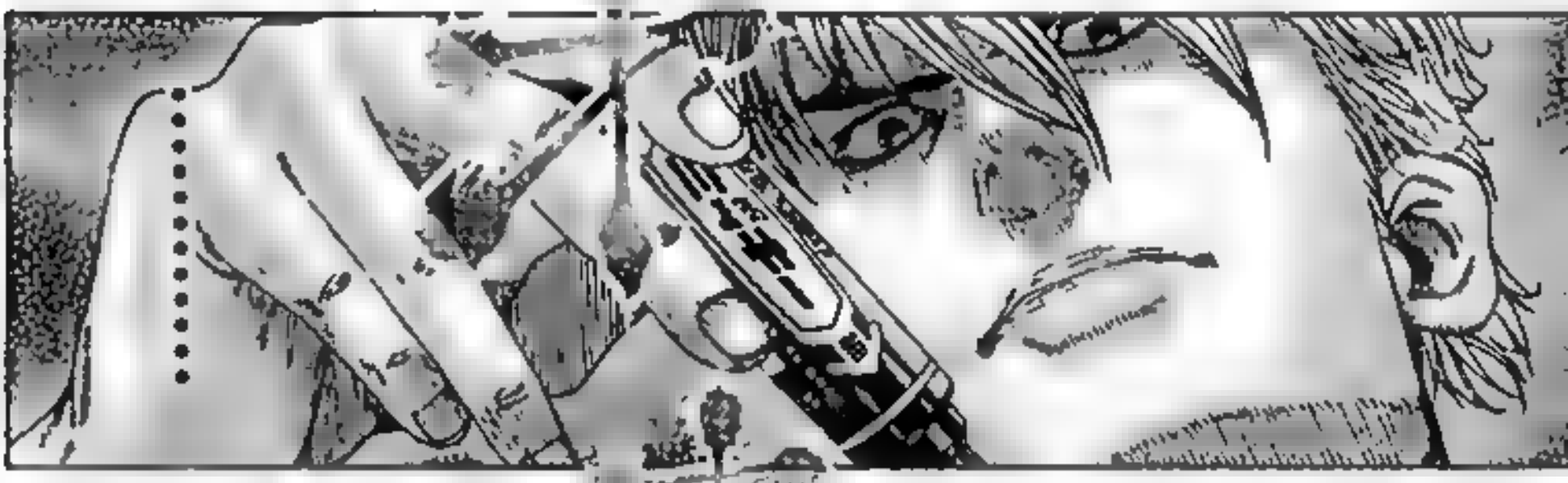
USUGU

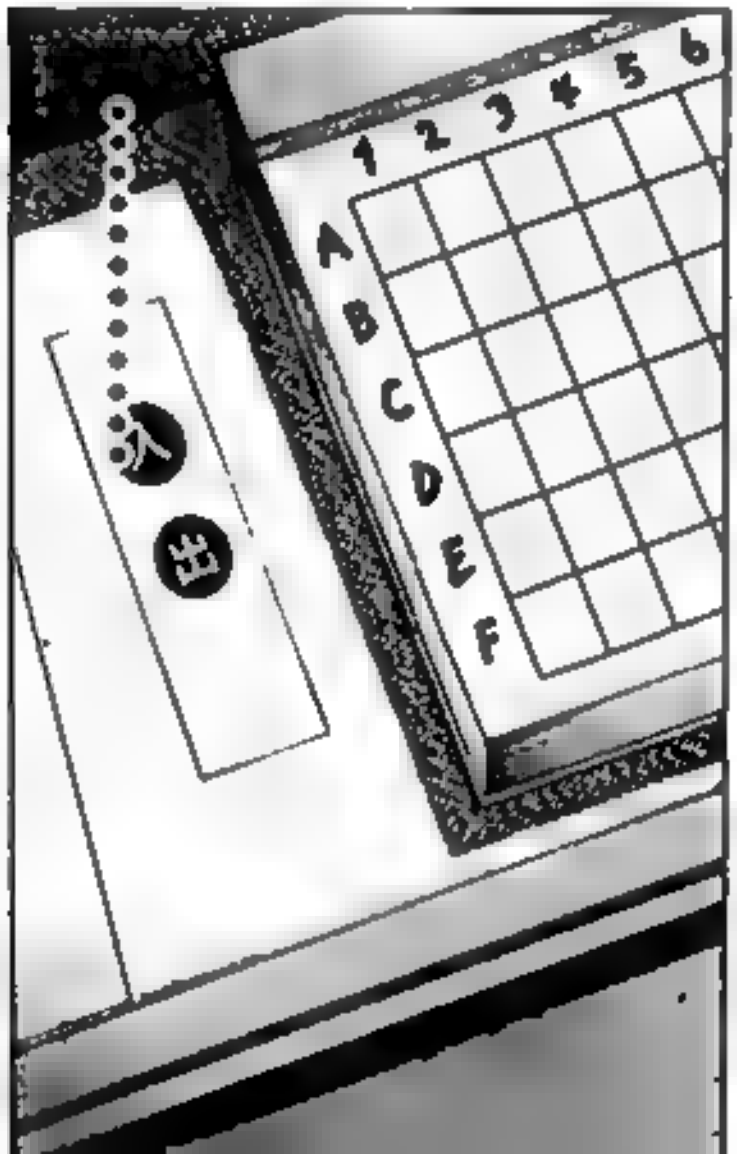
THAT'S RIGHT

SO...

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

CREATE THE LABYRINTH





!

THIS IS... RATHER HIGH TECH... ISN'T IT?

TECH...

BAKU- ... KUN?

WH-...

...

WHAT'S WRONG, BAKU- KUN?

WELL,

IT'S THE PHOTO- COPIER...

!

YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW?

WHEN YOU WERE EXPLAINING THIS GAME TO ME BEFORE, YOU MENTIONED YOU'LL MAKE COPIES OF OUR LABYRINTHS.

SO THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT SOMEHOW...

I'VE HEARD THAT PHOTOCOPIERS KEEP DATA OF EVERYTHING IT COPIES!!

HAS BEEN SENT TO YOU.

A COPY OF MY LABY-RINTH...

I...
I-JUST...
WANT TO...

H-

MAKE SURE!

HEY!

HA HA HA

MAYBE YOU'RE RECEIVING THE DATA ON THAT PAPER.

WAIT... IT COULD BE PAPER.

LIKE THIS PEN... THIS PEN...

BAKU-KUN.

...

ゴゴゴ

IT'S POSSIBLE! IT'S MORE THAN JUST POSSIBLE!

IT'S COMPLETELY POSSIBLE THAT SUCH PAPER COULD BE MADE.

WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGY IT'S POSSIBLE.

THAT I'M CHEATING... RIGHT? I'M DISAPPOINTED.

YOU WANT TO SAY_

...

HONESTLY, I'M DISAP-POINTED.

SCREW THE TRUST BETWEEN US NOW. IT NO LONGER EXISTS.

A HUNDRED MILLION IS AT STAKE HERE.

.....

IT'S OVER.

AS TO WHY HE MADE THAT ACCUSATION, I DON'T KNOW...

AND THE ACCUSATION USOGUI MADE WAS CLEARLY A BLUFF...

IF SO, THEN THIS WOULD BE.

A GREEDY MAN WHO LOSES HIS COMPOSURE WHEN FACED WITH SUCH A LARGE SUM OF MONEY... WOULD BE THE SAME AS EVERY OTHER SUCKER WE'VE HAD BEFORE

IT MIGHT ALSO HAVE SEEMED THAT THIS SELF-PROFESSED GAMBLER GAVE HIMSELF AWAY WITH WHAT HE DID AS SOON AS HE SAW THE MONEY...

YUKIIDE'S NEXT MOVE.

I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MIGHT BECOME SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYTHING WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH AS STAKE.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I THINK YOUR REACTION IS COMPLETELY NORMAL.

WELL ..

THAT'S WHAT I WOULD SAY BUT...

I MUST LEARN FROM YOU...

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE PHOTOCOPIER. WE'LL PROCEED WITH THE GAME WITHOUT USING IT.

THE WORLD OF BETTING IS HARSH...

PEOPLE HAVE TO BE THOROUGH LIKE YOU.

I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS AT THIS POINT, BUT THIS WHOLE PLACE IS NOW...

YES SIR.

KADOKURA-SAN, YOU HEARD. I WANT YOU TO COPY THE LABYRINTH TO ANOTHER PAPER BY HAND.

COMPLETELY

UNDER USOGUI'S CONTROL.

RESUME CREATING THE LABY-RINTH.

WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL WE SEE THE LABYRINTHS.

AS FOR DETERMINING WHO HAS THE UPPER HAND SO FAR...

...

I WANT TO MAKE A DRAFT FIRST SO I CAN REALLY THINK ABOUT IT. I WANT TO MAKE A COMPLICATED LABYRINTH...

...

ER, DO YOU HAVE A MECHA-NICAL PENCIL?

OR JUST A PENCIL WILL DO... ONE WITH AN ERASER?

KADO-KURA-SAN...

OVER THERE IN THE DRAWER BY THE WALL.

GIVE IT TO HIM.

YOU KNOW, WITH THIS, I CAN'T REDO ANY LINES.

I KNOW THERE HAD BEEN A FEW INCIDENTS,

WE CAN FINALLY START THE GAME, BUT BAKU-KUN...

OUR LABY-RINTHS ARE IN HERE...

THAT'S WHY I CAN FEEL IT. YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE REST.

...

AND I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU I'M WEALTHY.

AND MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, YOU TOLD ME A MEMORY THAT WAS PAINFUL AND HEARTBREAK-ING... THAT'S NOT SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE CAN DO...

YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE BABIES I'VE MET BEFORE...

WHEN IT COMES TO A BET, YOU'RE THOROUGH, AND YOU LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED.

...

IS THAT SO...

AND JUST FOR THAT, I THINK YOU DESERVE THE HUNDRED MILLION.

OF COURSE, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LOSING, BUT I'D REALLY LIKE YOU TO WIN THE MILLION TOO.

PLEASE MAKE THE COPIES AND GIVE THEM TO US.

NOW THEN KADOKJRA-SAN.

THEN... LET US BEGIN

PLEASE EXCUSE ME...

MOMENTARILY...

I, KADOKURA YUUDAI, HAVE UNINTENTIONALLY MADE A FACE THAT WAS A LITTLE INDISCREET

……

第92話
神隠かり
CHAPTER 92: DIVINE POSSESSION

カツ カツ

SFX: KIK KIK

HERE ARE THE COPIES OF YOUR LABYRINTHS.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, LET US BEGIN.

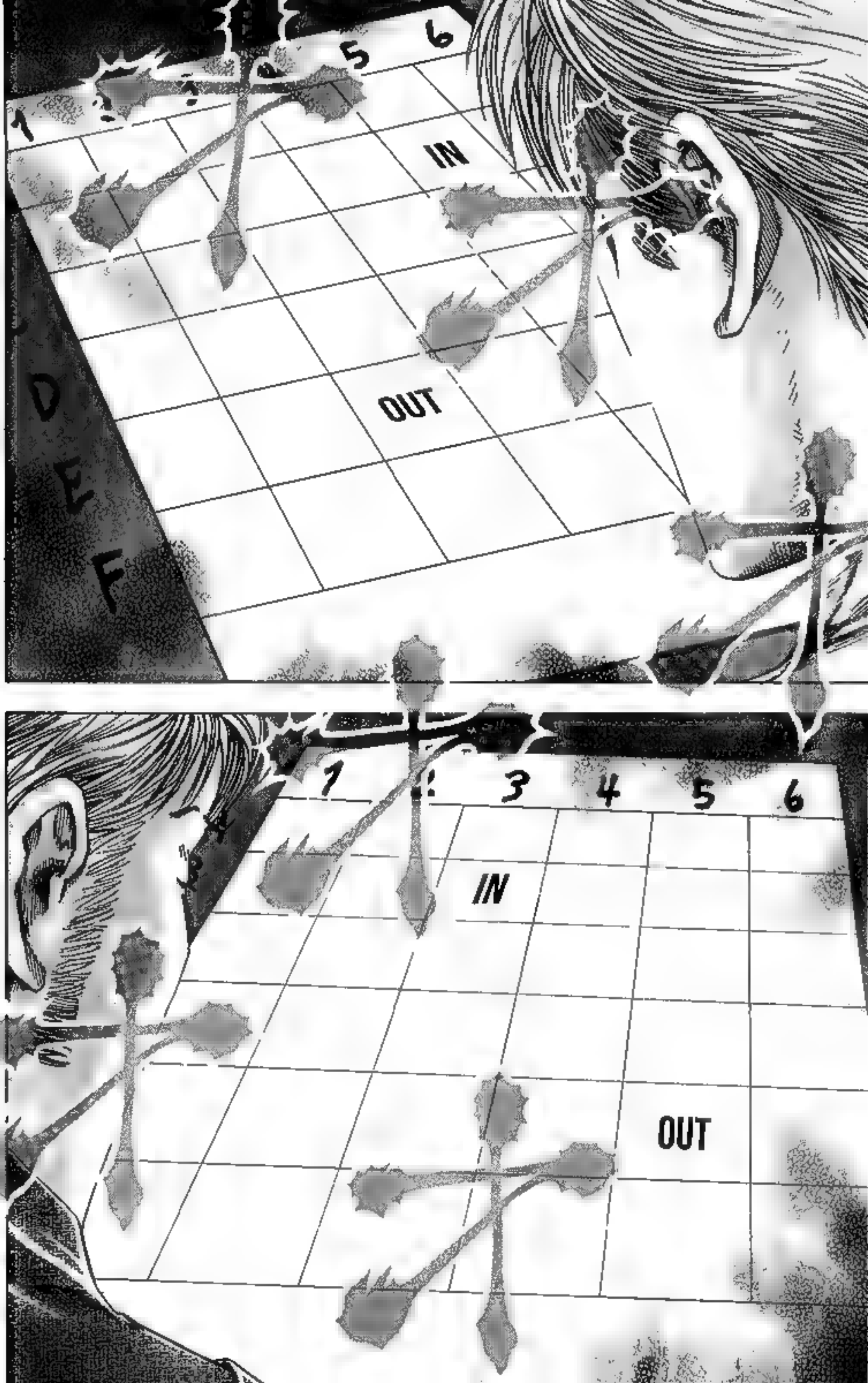
PLEASE TAKE IT.

LABYRINTH

USOGUI, BAKU

YUKIIDE KAORU

CHAPTER 92
DIVINE POSSESSION
第92話
神憑かり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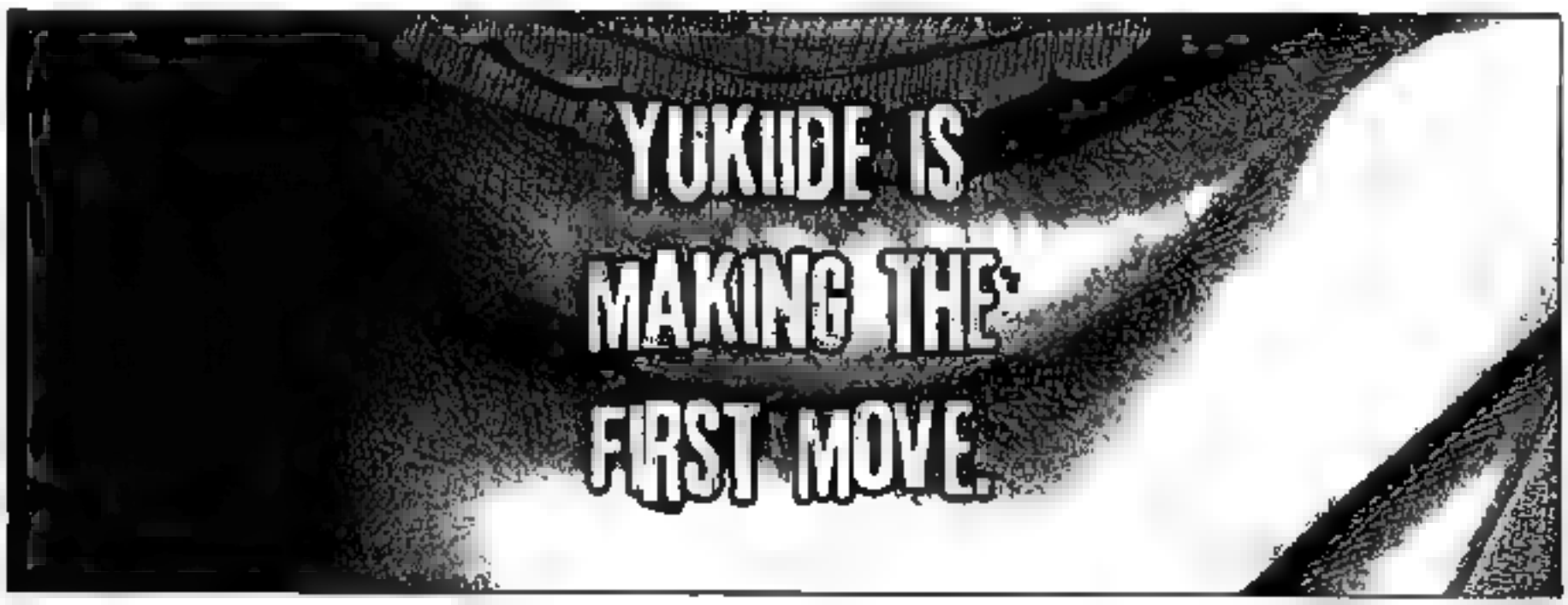
NO HARD FEELINGS TO WHOEVER WINS. LET'S DO OUR BEST.
LET'S BEGIN NOW, BAKU-KJN.

THE ONLY DIF-FERENCE IS...
IT'S BASICALLY THE SAME AS WHEN KAJI PLAYED.
THE LEAD UP TO THE CREATION OF THE LABY-RINTHS... YUKIIDE'S ACTIONS...


YUKIIDE IS MAKING THE FIRST MOVE.

FWIP

.....

!

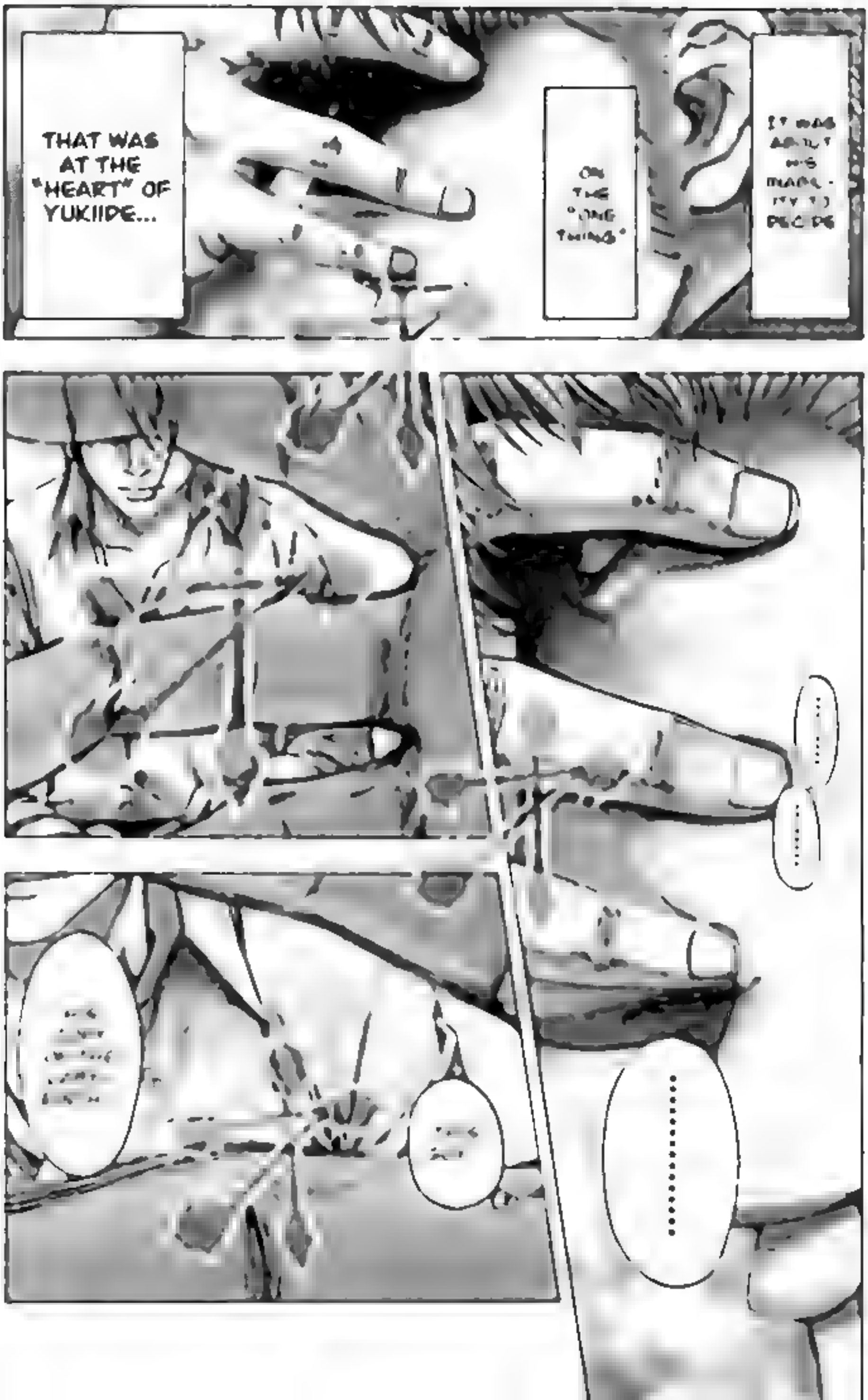
OF COURSE THIS IS NOT MY FIRST TIME, BUT...

THIS LABY-RINTH GAME.

PHEW!

ON THE SUB-JECT OF BEING "UN-SURE" ...

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I PLAY IT, I'M ALWAYS UNSURE ABOUT THE FIRST MOVE.


THAT WAS AT THE "HEART" OF YUKIIDE...
OH THE "ONE THING"

I SEE...

THE CHANCES ARE INFINITE...

I GET IT...

HE'S BETTING ON... THE NEXT MOVE...

KADO-KURA-SAN.

THE ORDER... HAS BEEN PRE-SERVED.

EVERY-THING...

HAS AN ANSWER...

.....

HOW'S THAT?

B 4

NEXT,

A 4.

OF COURSE.

IN

OUT

YES, THERE IS NO WALL THERE.

IN

A 2

YES

A 3

YES

OUT

YES

B 1

YES

B 2

YES

C 1

YES

D 2

WAIT, WHAT'S GOING ON?

WAIT.

D 1

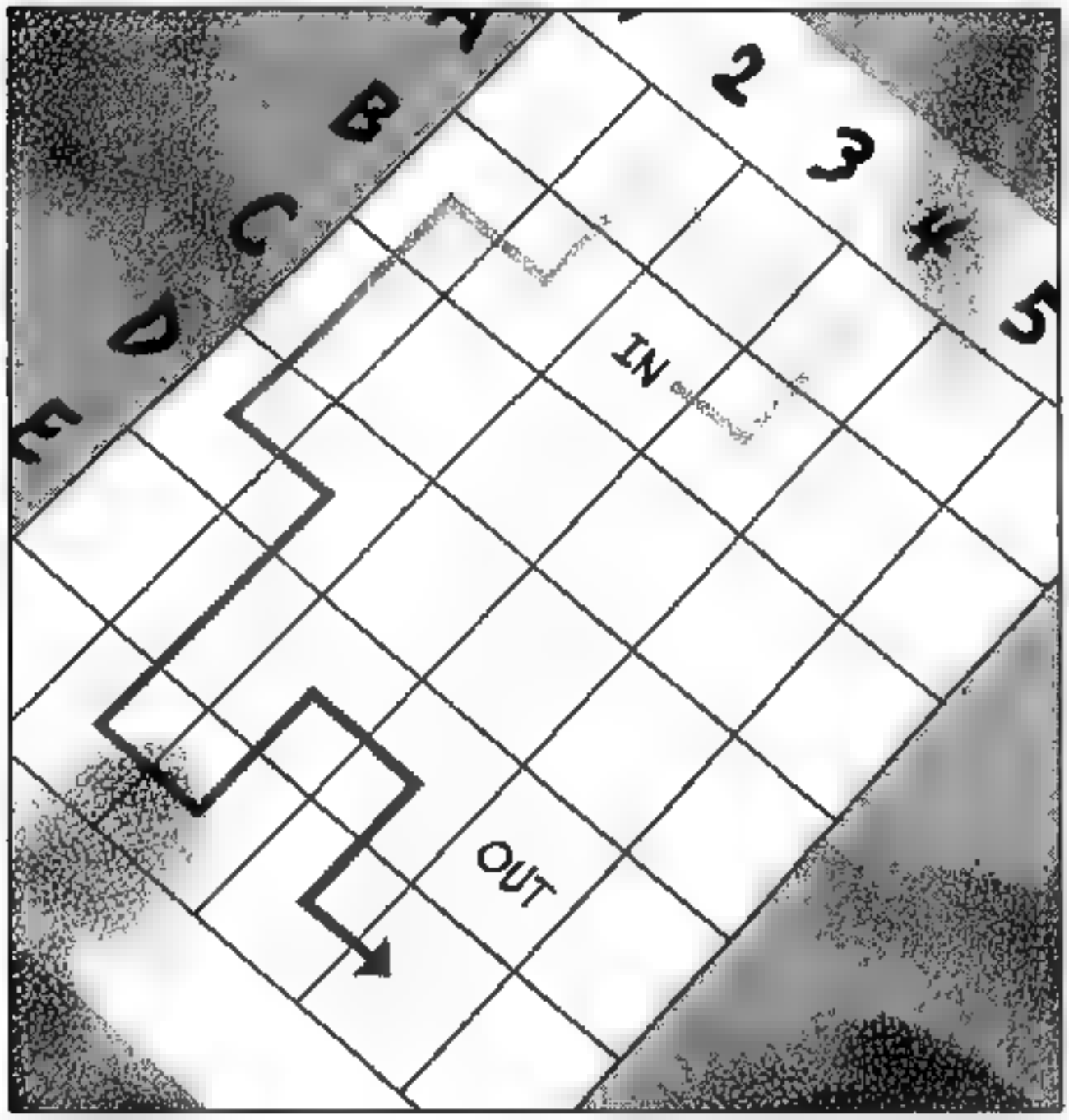
MAYBE, JUST MAYBE...

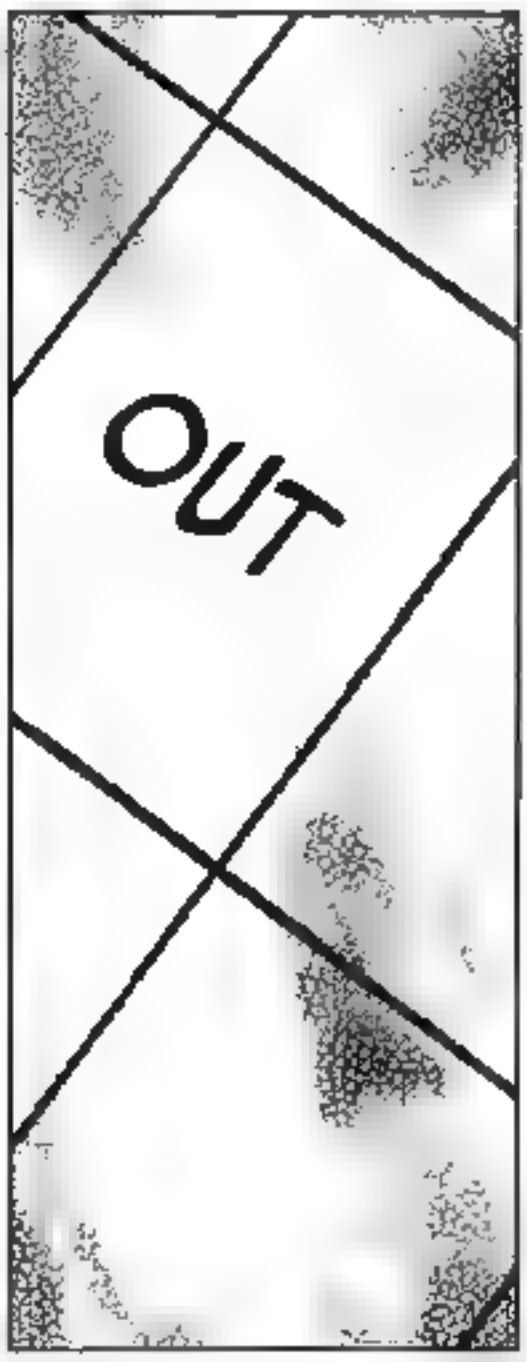
WOW... I'M REALLY LUCKY TODAY.

!

THIS GUY...

I MIGHT JUST REACH THE EXIT.





BUT, I GUESS I'M GOING TO TAKE A CHANCE HERE AND GO FOR IT.

I BET I'M GOING TO MAKE THE WRONG MOVE NOW.

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO THINK, BUT I GUESS THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY... HAHAHA.

THIS IS IT.

クックック

E 5, THE EXIT.

SFX: HEHEHEH...

THERE'S A WALL.

I'M SORRY.

OH MAN!

PHEW

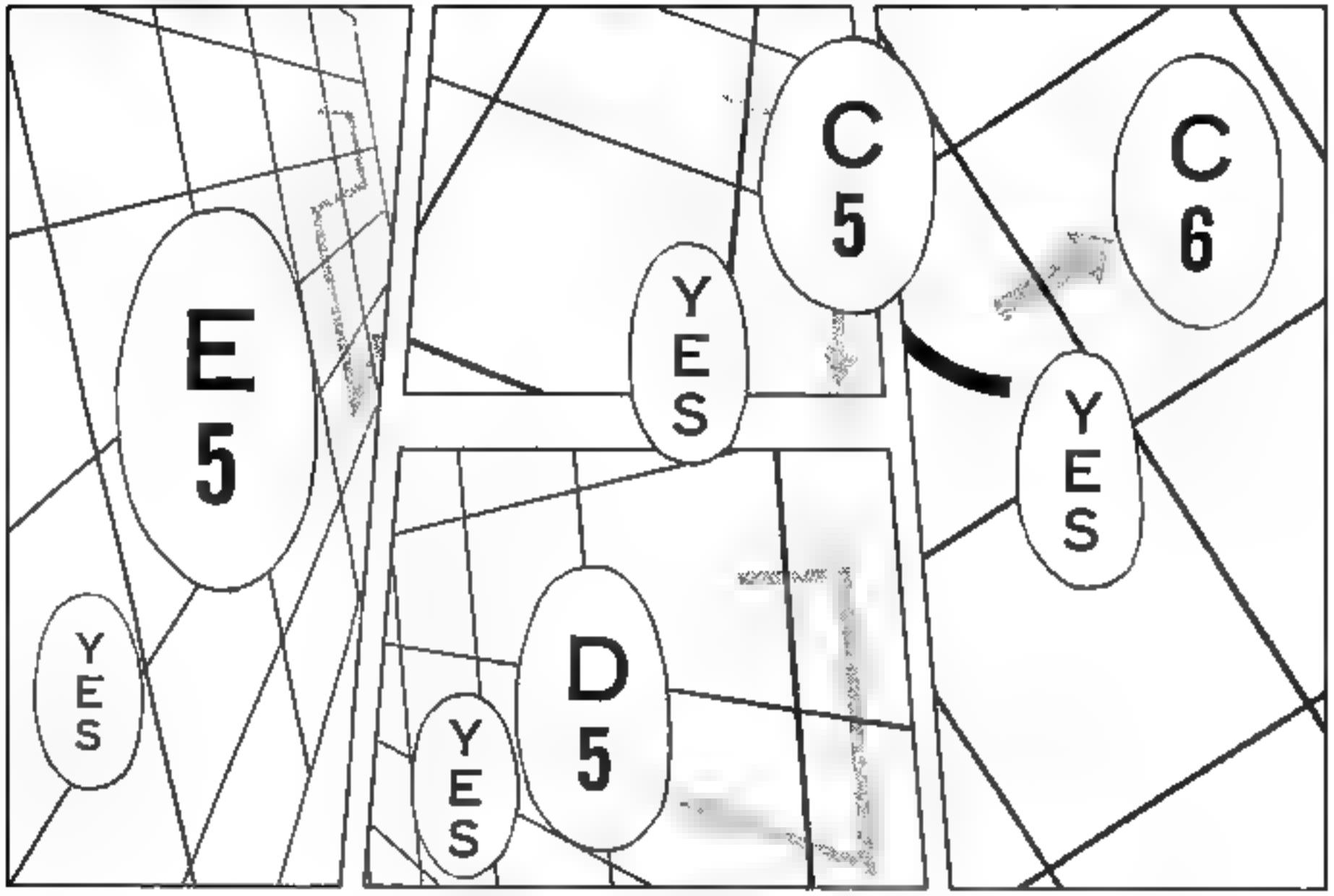
I THOUGHT YOU WERE REALLY GONNA CLEAR THAT IN ONE SHOT.

I MEAN, SERIOUSLY, I WAS SCARED.

THAT... WAS CLOSE... SERIOUSLY...

嘘吸い④。

B 6
YES
I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST TOO.
……


E 5
YES
C 5
YES
C 6
YES
D 5
YES

BAKU-SAMA...
YES
DAMMIT, HURRY UP AND GET IT WRONG!...
COULD IT... BE E4?

IN

OUT

YOU'VE WON THIS MATCH FLAW-LESSLY.

WOW!

IVE WON THE HUNDRED MILLION

AND YES! THE HUNDRED MILLION

.....

I... I DID IT!

IT WAS LIKE I WAS POSSESSED BY A GOD OR SOMETHING!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS, I JUST WON THAT FLAW-LESSLY!

PLASTIC ERASER
TOMBI
NOMO

AH,
HERE YOU GO.
THANKS.

WELL, BAKU-KUN, YOU GOT ME.

THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF WOULD BE "THAT"... YOU STUPID BASTARD...

ALRIGHT, LET'S DO ANOTHER GAME WITH THIS DATE...
NOT HAPPEN-ING!

THIS DATE IS AN IMPORTANT MEMORY FOR ME. I WOULD NEVER USE IT FOR A BET TWICE.

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH,

HAVING SAID THAT, I CAN'T COME UP WITH ANOTHER DATE TO BET EITHER SO... THIS IS IT, SORRY...

LET'S END THIS.

第93話

思い出す

CHAPTER 93: TO REMEMBER

.....

EH?

... WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

... BAKU-KUN... ARE YOU SAYING...

NOW, THAT'S JUST...

NOT COOL, ISN'T IT?

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PLAY ANOTHER GAME?

.....

TENS

1997 MAY 7
JULY
NOV

1998 FE

HUNDREDS

1997 JUNE 30
JULY 11
DECEM

00 SEPTEM
NOVEMB
DECEMBE

02 MAY 8
OCTOBER 11

02

2006

THOUSANDS

1999 JA

02

ALL I WANT ARE THE DATES TO FILL UP THE BLANKS...

AND FOR PUTTING THESE DATES AS STAKE...

I PUT IN A LOT OF EFFORT TO ARRANGE THIS...

12

SO,

1998

I AM OFFERING YOU A CHANCE TO WIN THE KIND OF MONEY YOJ COULD ONLY DREAM OF...

LIKE YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!!!

BAKU-SAMA.

BUT IT'S UNREASONABLE FOR YOU TO SAY YOU CAN'T COME UP WITH ANY OTHER DATES.

THIS ISN'T WHAT WE AGREED ON.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE UNFAIR FOR YOU TO JUST UP AND LEAVE AFTER YOU'VE WON JUST ONE GAME?

I UNDER-STAND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PLAY WITH THAT PARTICULAR DATE.

ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU CAN'T REMEMBER ANY OTHER DATE?

.....

YOU AGREED THAT WHEN YOU COME UP WITH ANOTHER DATE, YOU'D GO FIRST.

BEFORE, WHEN YOU WERE DECIDING ON WHO'LL GO FIRST.

YOU KNOW~

IT'S JUST...

.....

HMM ...

I HAVE NO INTEN-TION OF FORCING YOU... YOU CAN GO HOME.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO END IT, FINE.

HOW-EVER,

!

FINE.

REGRET THIS

I JUST HOPE YOU WON'T

MISSING OUT ON DOUBLING, TRIPLING OR QJADRUPLING YOUR WINNINGS BECAJSE YOU CHICKENED OUT...

I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO REGRET IT LIKE THAT.

SO DON'T MAKE A DECISION YOJ'LL REGRET LATER.

.....

RUNNING OFF WITH A MEASLY HUNDRED MILLION...

BECAUSE YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I WANT TO FILL IN THE BLANKS.

AND THIS PROBABLY ISN'T THE CASE, BUT...

WAS JUST AN ACT TO GET ME TO OFFER MORE MONEY THAN WHAT WAS AGREED TO,

IF THAT "UNWILLINGNESS"

THIS AGREEMENT ...

THEN IT WAS A COMPLETELY MEANINGLESS MOVE.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF CHANGING THAT... NOT EVEN A PENNY.

IS A RULE I'VE SET FOR MYSELF...

AND RULES MUST BE KEPT..

.....

KAJI'S ALIBI THAT YUKIIDE TOOK.

HIS PLAN WAS TO DRAW OUT

IN RETURN FOR BETTING THE DATE OF HIS CRIME AND THE 100 MILLION HE'D JUST WON,

I SEE...

THAT CARD DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE WORKED FOR USOGUI.

IT'S NATURAL TO THINK THAT HIS REAL INTENTION WAS TO TAKE THE GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL BY REVEALING HIS CONNECTION TO KAJI... BUT...

AND THAT AMOUNT OF MONEY TO YUKIIDE IS NOTHING.

YOU WERE TOO HASTY, USOGUI... WHETHER YOU BUY IT BACK OR MAKE HIM BET WITH IT, THAT HUNDRED MILLION IS WHAT KAJI'S DATE IS WORTH.

I JUST REMEMBERED THE DATE I WAS GOING TO BET WITH, HAHA.

WAIT, WAIT, I'M SORRY.

AH!

OH YEAH!

.....

YEAH, IT WAS APRIL 9, I'M SO GLAD I REMEMBERED IT NOW.

.....

APRIL 9, 2001

OF COURSE. I REMEMBER IT CLEARLY NOW,

IT WAS APRIL 9, 2001, NO MISTAKE.

... BAKU-KUN?

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT DATE?

YES... YOU NEED TO EARN IT.

YOU MUST KEEP WINNING.

UNTIL YOU HAVE IN YOUR HANDS A SUM LARGE ENOUGH TO FORCE YUKIIDE TO ACCEPT YOUR TERMS.

WITH APRIL 3 IN THE MILLIONS COLUMN?

ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVEN'T MISTAKEN IT...

...BAKU-KJN

THAT DATE...

ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVEN'T MISTAKEN THE 9TH FOR THE 3RD...?

APRIL 3
AUGUST 14

APRIL 3, 2001...

AND I CAN PICK FROM DATES THAT AREN'T ON THE BOARD RIGHT? ... I REMEMBER YOU SAYING THAT.

I'LL LOOK UP APRIL 9, 2001 THEN.

OK, BAKU-KUN.

AH

ERM

I DIDN'T PICK THIS DATE FOR THE MONEY...

YES, I'M SURE IT WAS APRIL 9.

EH?

AH?

PIP

PIP

I'LL CHECK IT AGAINST THE DATE I HAVE ON MY PHONE.

.....

1998 OCTOBER 3 HUNDREDS
1999 DECEMBER 15 HUNDREDS
2000 JUNE 28 HUNDREDS
2001 APRIL 9 HUNDREDS
2002 JULY 6 HUNDREDS

TWO GAMES

嘘嘘い④。

VERY WELL SIR, SO WE'VE AGREED ON TWO GAMES AND TWO GAMES ONLY.

!

!

LET'S AGREE THAT THERE'LL BE TWO MORE GAMES.

I FEEL QUITE BAD THAT I'VE FORCED YOU TO PLAY...

AND THE PRIZE FOR APRIL 9 IS...

WELL IT LOOKED LIKE YOJ WERE KEEN TO BE ON YOUR WAY HOME BEFORE, AND THERE'S NO POINT IN DRAGGING THIS ON TOO LONG.

.....

I KNOW IT'S NOT AS MUCH AS BEFORE, BUT YOU UNDER-STAND.

ONE MILLION.

YUKIIDE HAS SET THIS CONDI-TION BECAUSE HE EXPECTS HE WILL USE THE 100 MILLION DATE IN THE LAST GAME

IT SEEMS USOGUI'S PLAN TO GET YUKIIDE TO BET WITH THE PRIZE HE WANTS...

HAS BACK FIRED ON HIM.

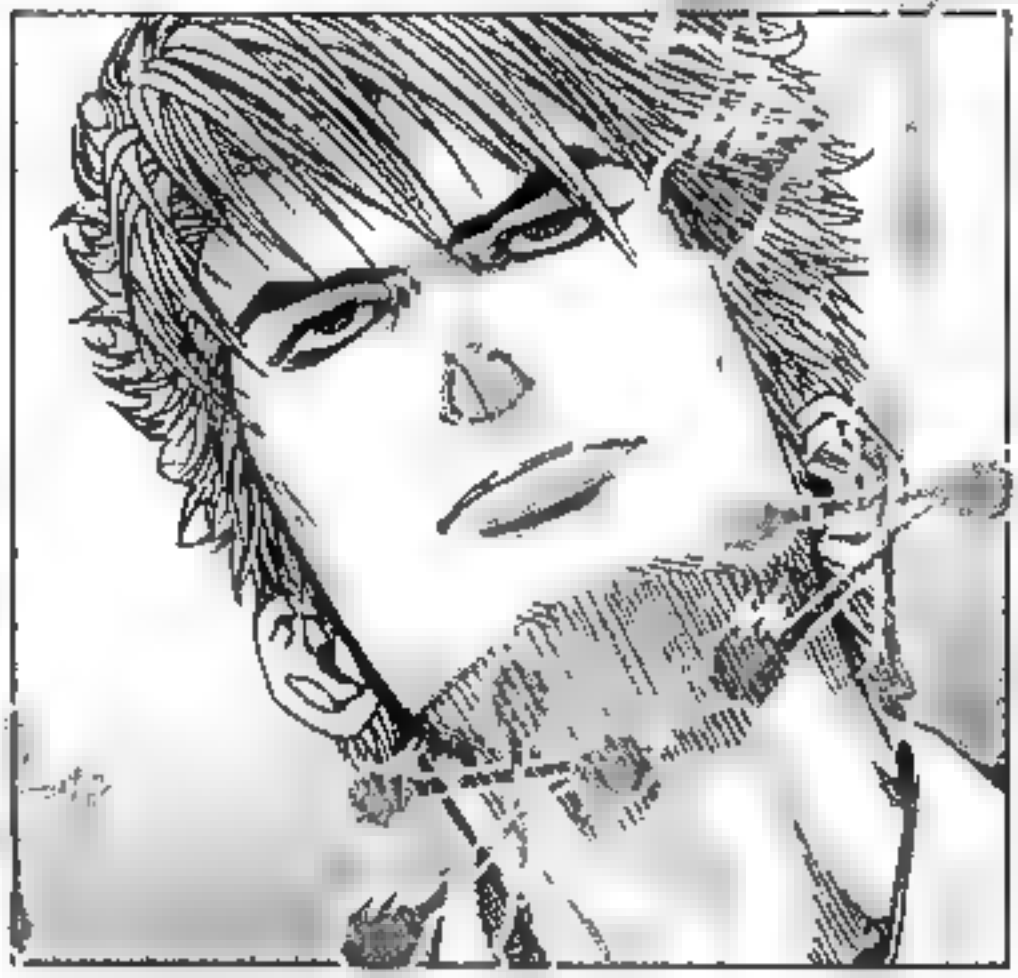
NOW EVEN IF USOGUI WINS THE NEXT TWO GAMES, HIS WIN-NINGS WILL ONLY TOTAL 201 MIL-LION... NOWHERE NEAR THE KIND OF MONEY THAT COULD SAVE KAJI.

YUKIIDE WOULD HAVE WANTED TO AVOID PLAYING THE SAME HAND AGAIN AND AGAIN IN THE FIRST PLACE.

AH WELL, WHAT CAN I DO.

SIGH JUST... TWO MORE GAMES...

I'M OK WITH THAT.



I CAN SEE IT CLEARLY...

HOW YOU'LL REGRET NOT GOING HOME THEN.

YOU MADE A MISTAKE.

I CAN SEE YOUR FUTURE...

.....

AND SOME MISTAKES,

CAN RUIN YOUR LIFE...

YEAH, I CAN SEE IT.

AH WELL... MY CONDO-LENCES TO YOU.

HOW YOU'LL REGRET

FOR NOT LETTING ME GO HOME.

W-

WAIT...

.....

IS THIS MAN?

WHAT KIND OF MONSTER

NO.... JUST AS I THOUGHT.

THERE'S NO MISTAKE..

HOW COULD THIS BE?

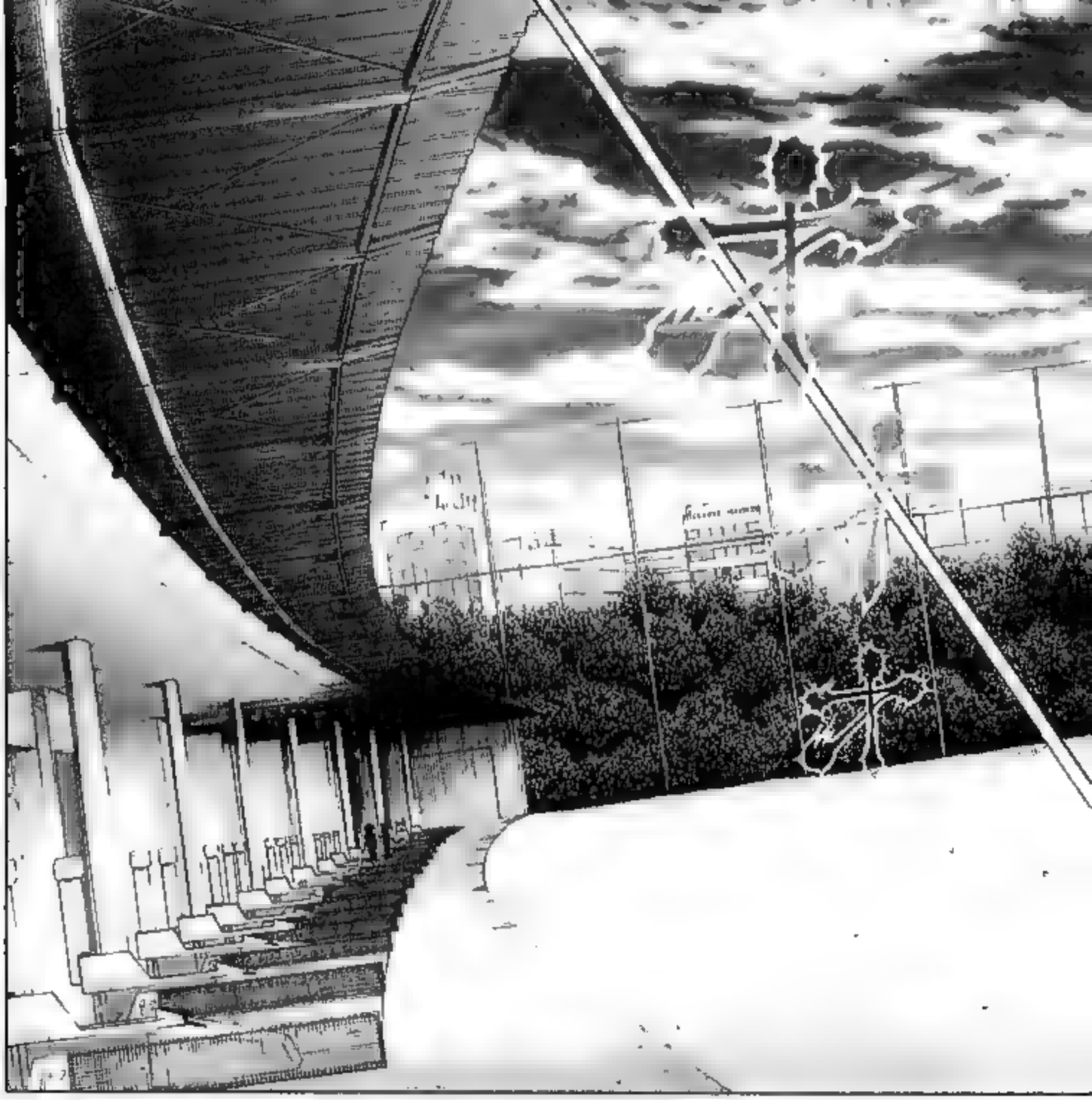
AND HIS PREY DOESN'T EVEN REALIZE THE TRAP...

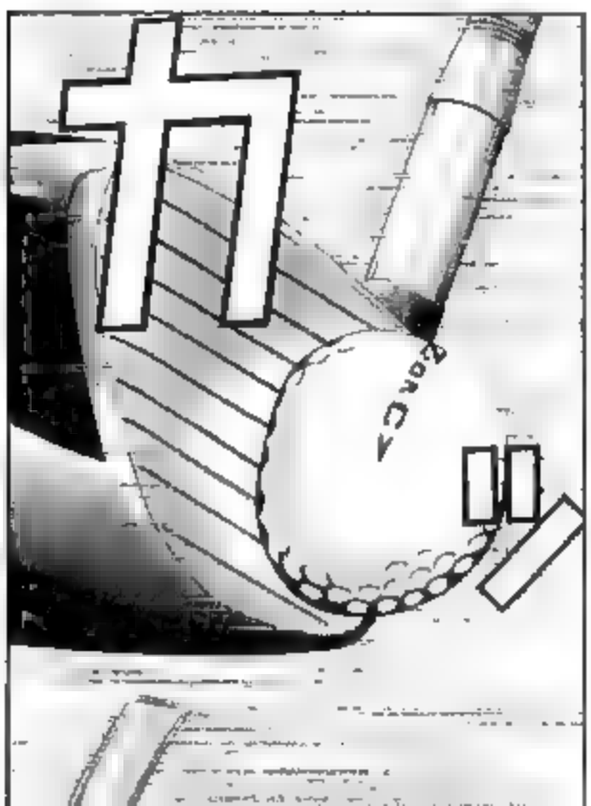
THIS IS UNBELIEV-ABLE...

THAT USOGUI WILL LOSE.

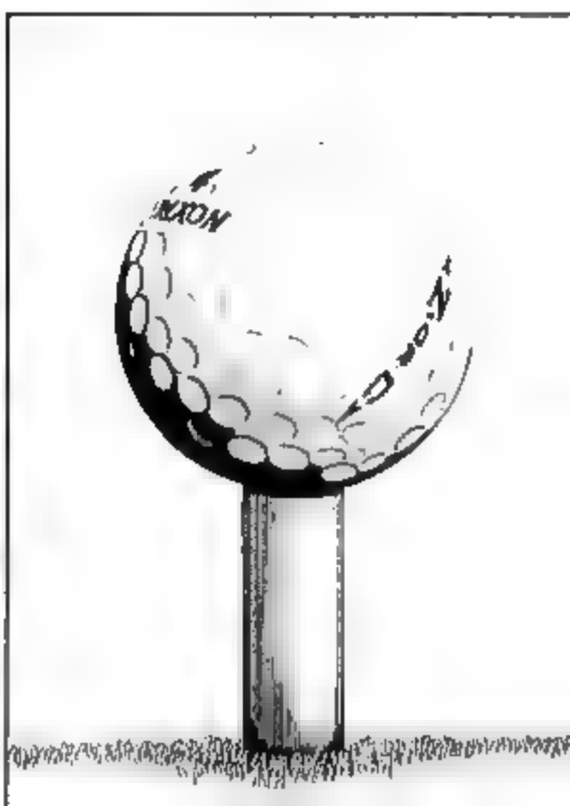
NOW IT'S CERTAIN

CHAPTER 94: THE THIRD MAN
第94話
第3の男



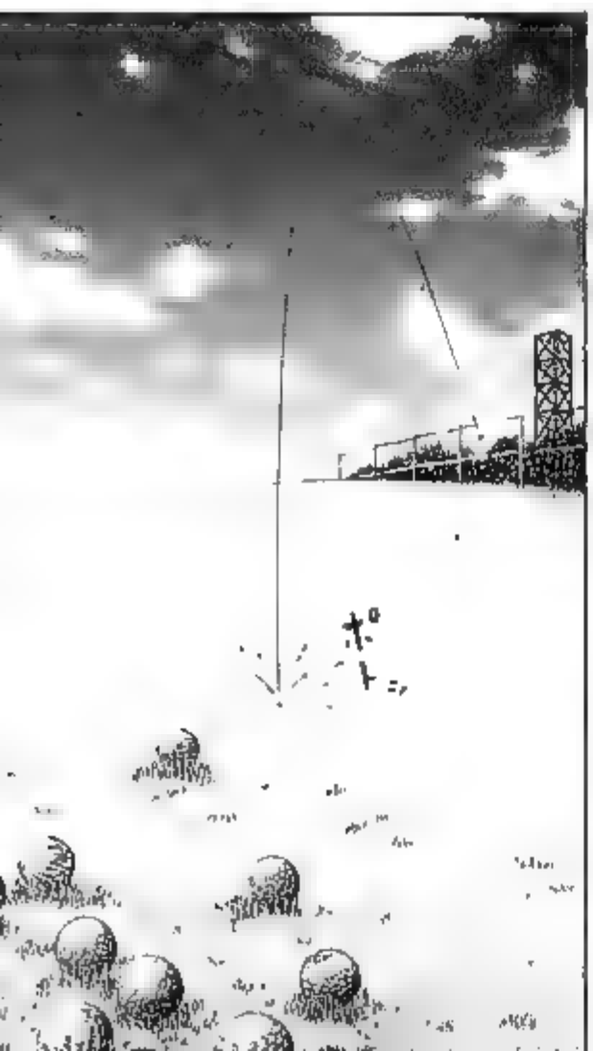

カ
ゴルフ

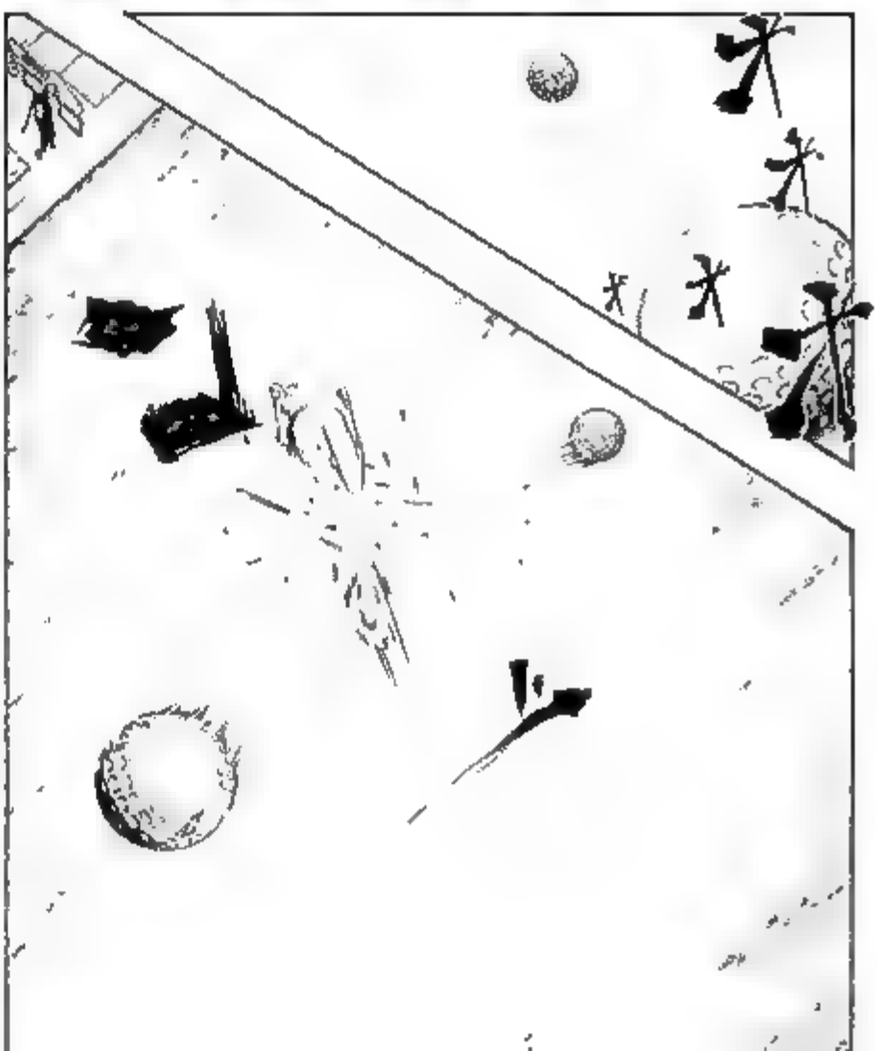
ボール


ボール

FWISH
PORK
RA-

MEN.
.....

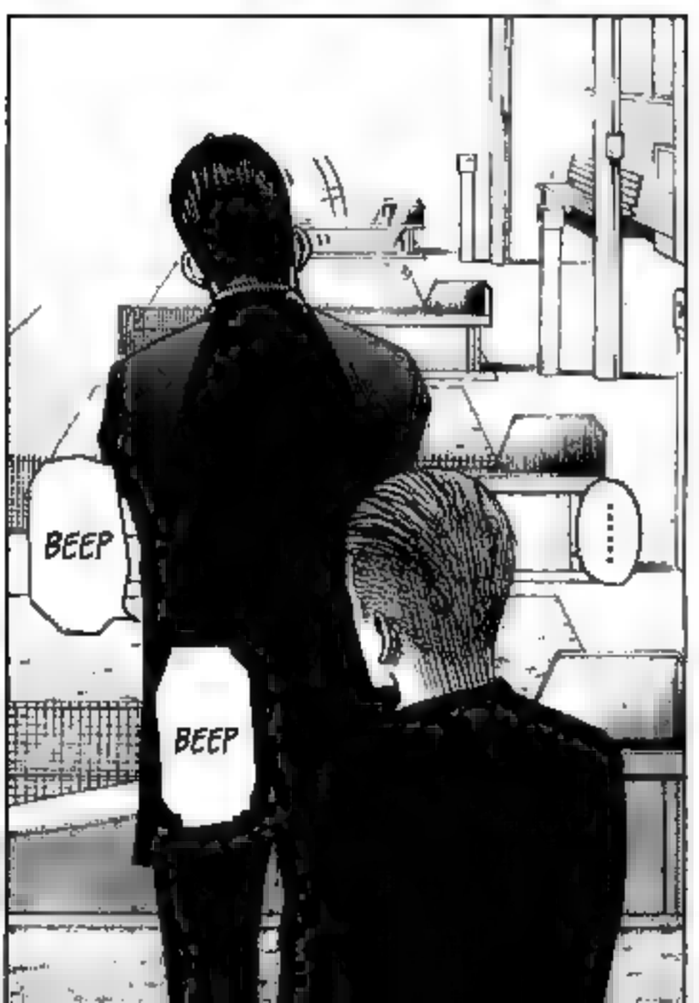




BEEP
BEEP

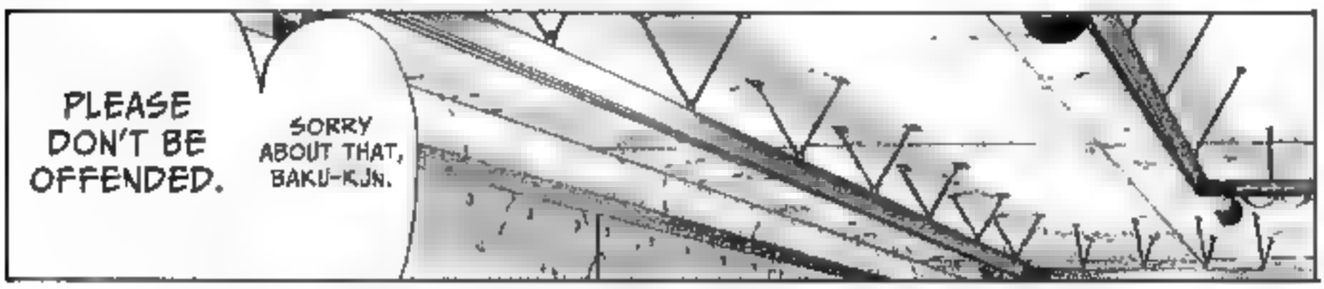
HM

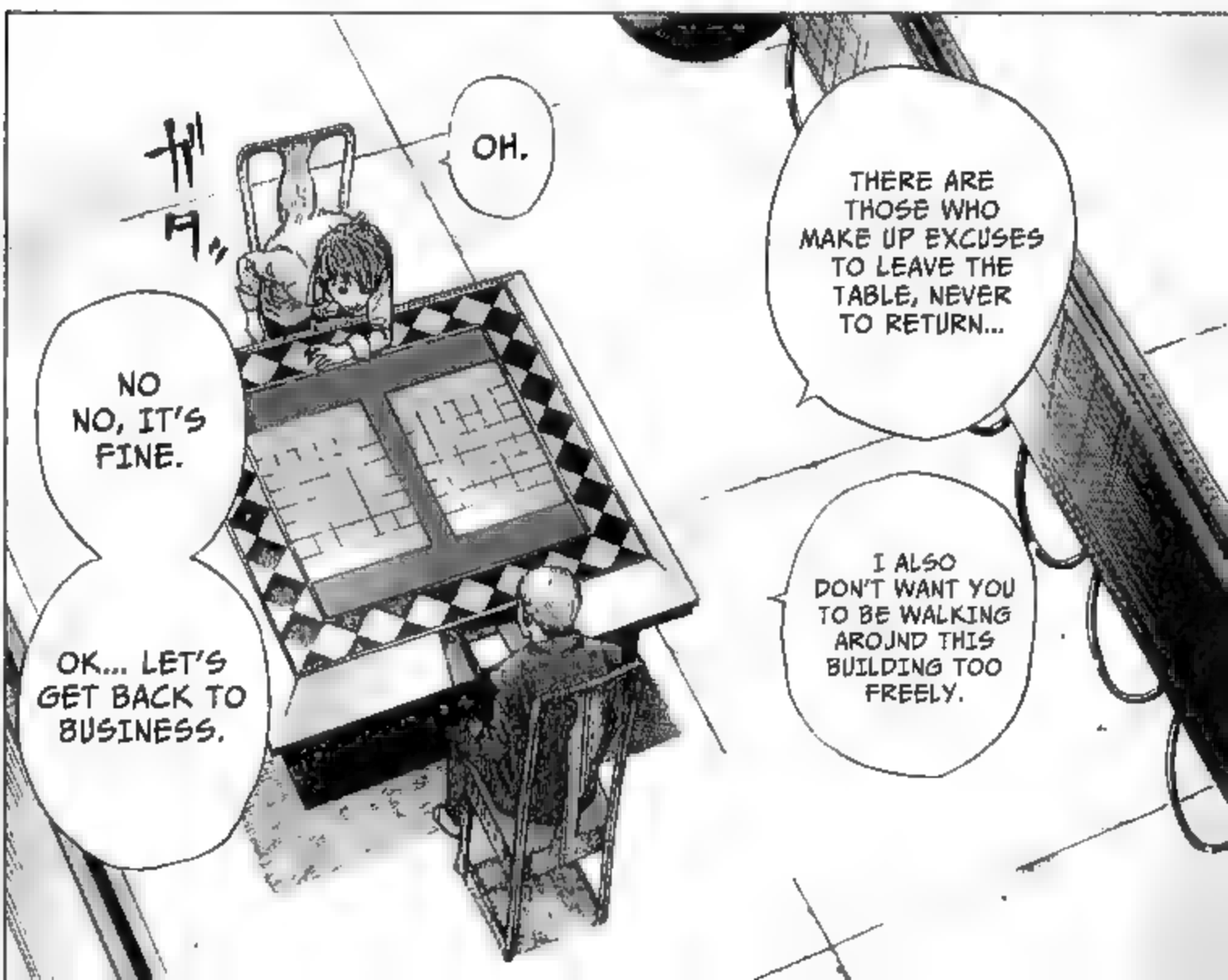
BEEP


BEEP
BEEP

THIS IS TOUYA.
IS THIS THE JUDGE?
KAKEROU REFEREE, TOUYA MASATERU. AKA THE JUDGE
THERE'S A GAME WE'D LIKE YOU TO REFEREE...
.....
IS THAT SO...

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAIT-ING.
..LET US GET BACK TO THE GAME, BAKU-SAMA
FLUSH


PLEASE DON'T BE OFFENDED.
SORRY ABOUT THAT, BAKU-KUN.


OH.
THERE ARE THOSE WHO MAKE UP EXCUSES TO LEAVE THE TABLE, NEVER TO RETURN...
NO NO, IT'S FINE.
I ALSO DON'T WANT YOU TO BE WALKING AROUND THIS BUILDING TOO FREELY.
OK... LET'S GET BACK TO BUSINESS.

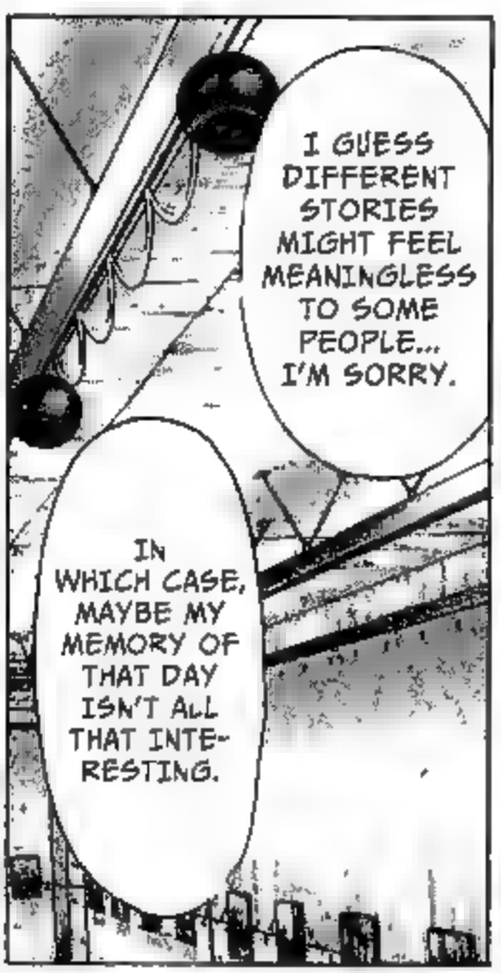
I WAS PRAC-TICING YOGA.
FOR MEN-TAL FO-CUS.
IT WAS APRIL 9TH, 2001...
I RE-MEM-BER THAT DAY.
BY SOFTENING THE JOINTS, YOU CAN EXERCISE MUSCLES YOU DON'T NORMALLY USE, THUS SPEEDING UP YOUR METABOLISM.
I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU OF THE GREAT BENEFITS OF YOGA, FOR BOTH THE BODY AND THE MIND.
IT WAS AL-READY DARK OUT-SIDE.
BY THE TIME I WAS FINALLY DONE...
.....
.....
THAT DAY I DECIDED TO TRY...
A VERY DIFFICULT POSE I'D NEVER DONE BEFORE.

AND THEN IT OCCURRED TO ME.
I HAD REACHED A STATE OF ABSOLUTE MENTAL FOCUS..
IF I WERE TO PLAY POOYAN...
IN THIS STATE...
BAKU-KUN,
CAN WE GET TO THE GIST OF THE STORY NOW.?
...
JUST BECAUSE I SAID I WANTED YOUR MEMORIES, IF I LISTENED TO EVERY SINGLE DETAIL,
ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH... I JUST NEED TO HEAR THE IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THAT DAY...
UNLESS YOU THINK THAT BY TELLING ME LONG STORIES...

IS THAT HOW YOU LIKE TO PLAY?
AND THAT YOU'D BE ABLE TO "UNSETTLE" ME?
...THAT YOU WOULD IRRITATE ME,

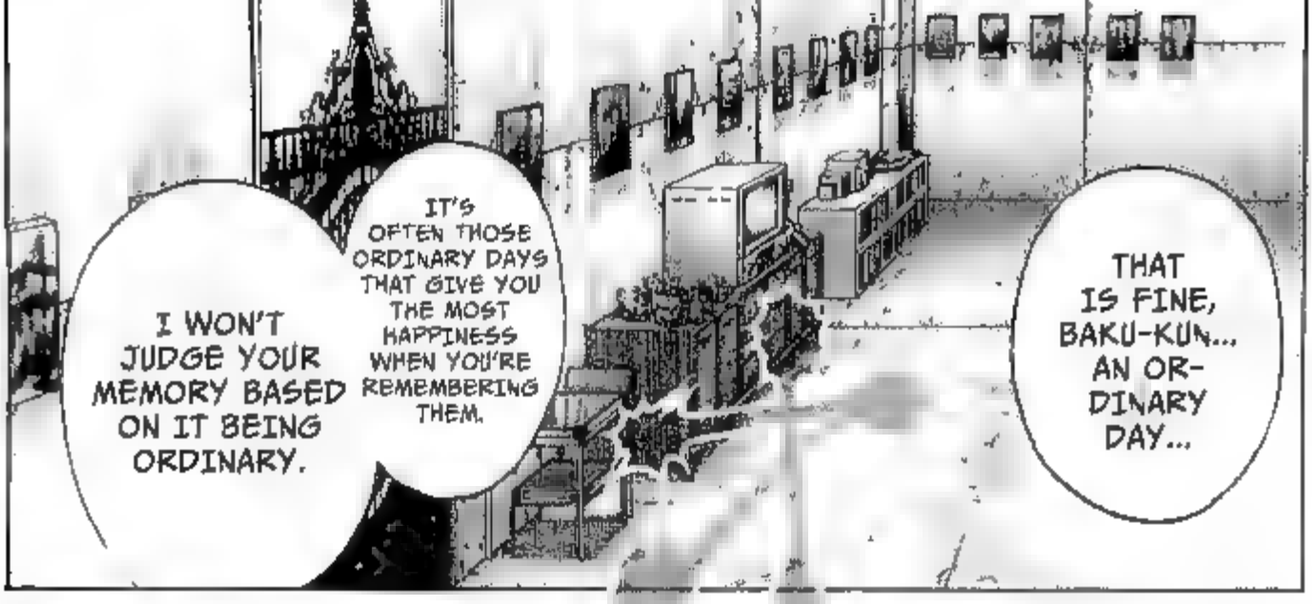
THERE WAS A REASON WHY I WAS TRYING TO FOCUS...
NO,
.....
YOU'RE A GAM-BLER...

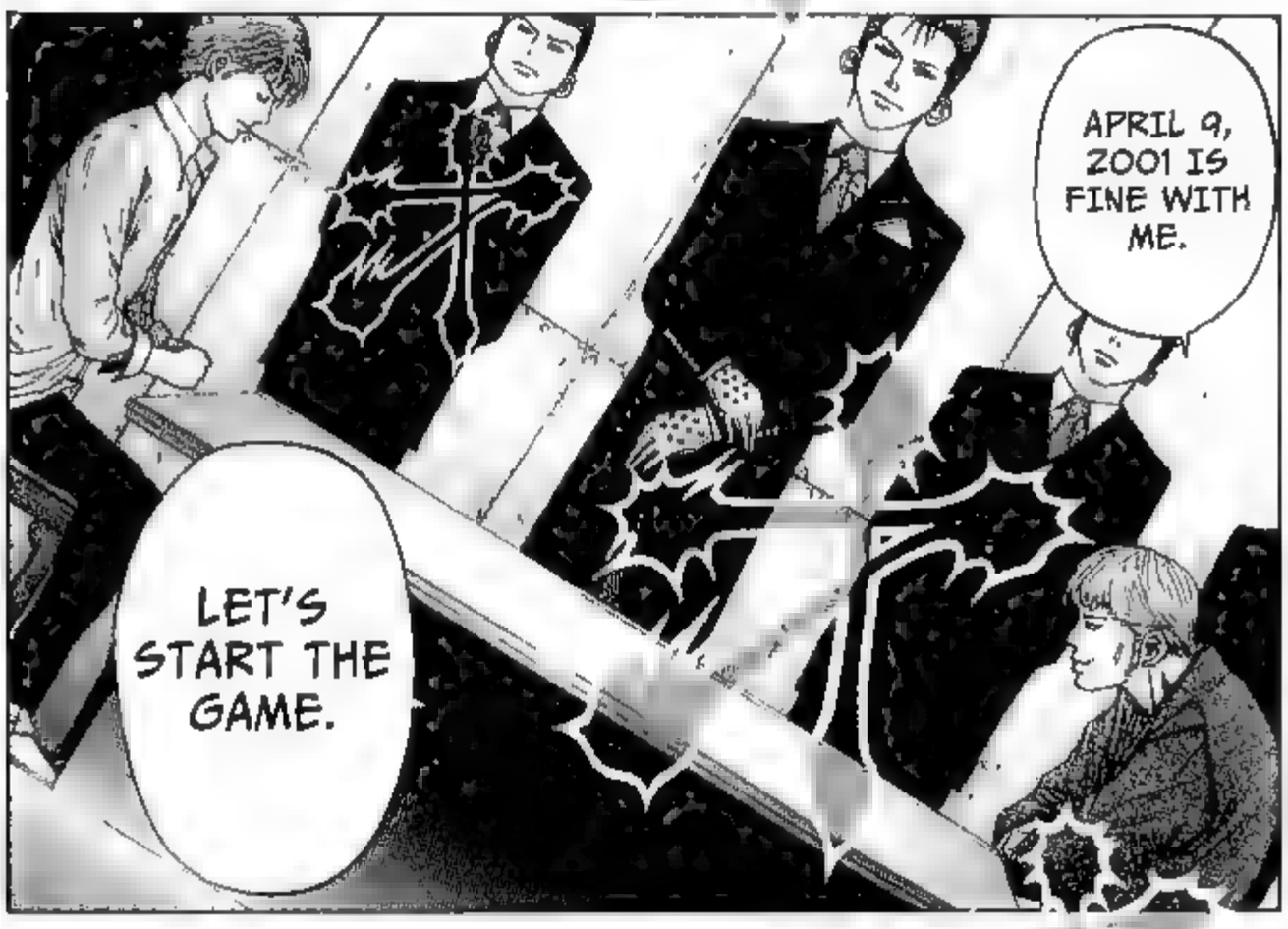
.....


I GUESS DIFFERENT STORIES MIGHT FEEL MEANINGLESS TO SOME PEOPLE... I'M SORRY.
IN WHICH CASE, MAYBE MY MEMORY OF THAT DAY ISN'T ALL THAT INTE-RESTING.

.....

WELL,
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,


I WON'T JUDGE YOUR MEMORY BASED ON IT BEING ORDINARY.
IT'S OFTEN THOSE ORDINARY DAYS THAT GIVE YOU THE MOST HAPPINESS WHEN YOU'RE REMEMBERING THEM.
THAT IS FINE, BAKU-KUN... AN ORDINARY DAY...



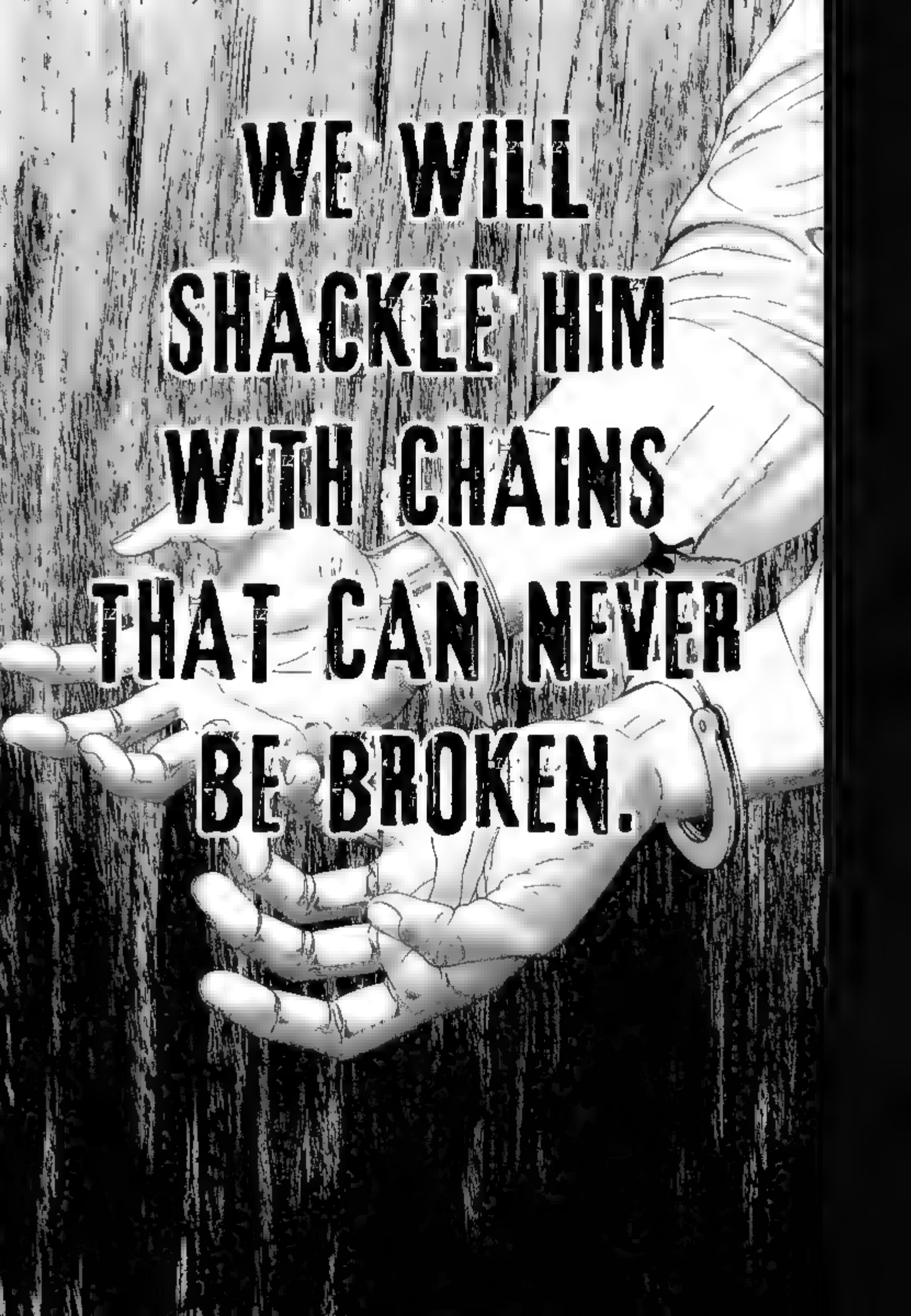
LABYRINTH ROUND 2 BEGINS

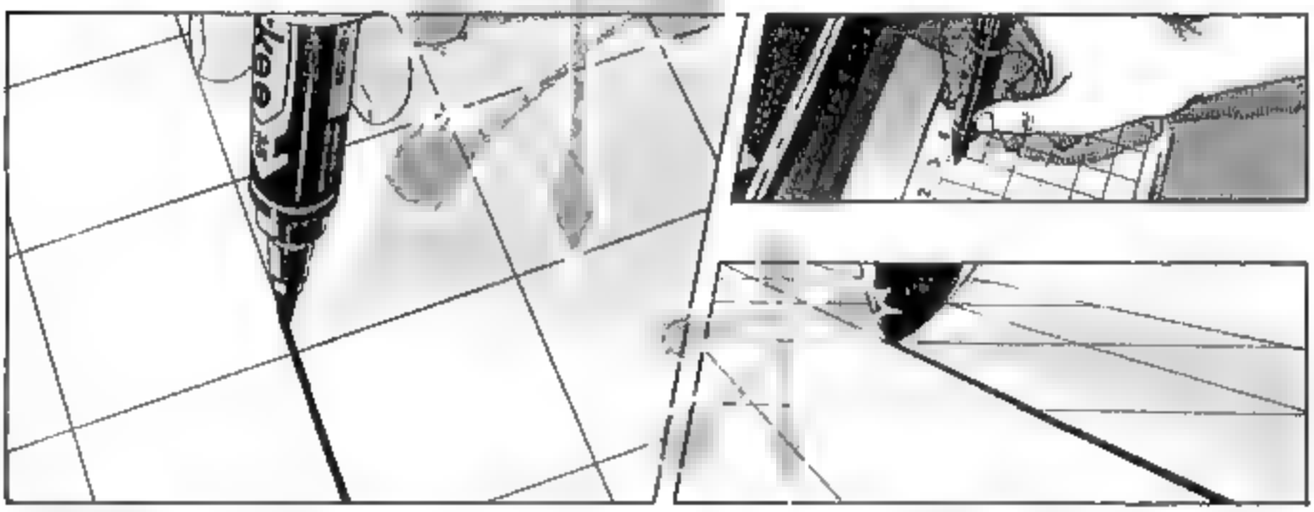
WHEN I FIRST LOST TO YOJ, I THOUGHT TO MY-SELF,
I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE LABYRINTH THROUGH LIKE YOU DID.
DO YOU MIND IF I USED THAT TOO...?
OH,
BY THE WAY, BAKU-KUN.
I'M OKAY WITH JUST THE PEN.
I'M GET-TING THE HANG OF IT NOW
.....
YEAH, SURE.
!
SORRY... I'LL GIVE IT BACK TO YOU WHEN I'M DONE.
WE ONLY HAVE ONE OF THESE.
I'M NOT GONNA USE THE PENCIL TO MAKE A DRAFT.

BUT THE TRUTH IS, THERE IS A SECRET SO HORRIBLE, IT'LL MAKE YOU WANT TO AVERT YOUR EYES
TO THE CRIME THAT WAS WORTH 100 MILLION. THIS MIGHT APPEAR TO BE AN INSIGNIFICANT GAME .
THE PRICE IN THE DATE IS !

THE OFFI- CERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PYRAMID, OF COURSE, WILL NEVER BE AWARE OF SUCH A ROTTEN SYSTEM... ONLY A HANDFUL AT THE VERY TOP WOULD KNOW
IT'S LIKE WHEN THE POLICE WANT TO PIN A SERIOUS CRIME ON
ARRESTING HIM ON A SEPARATE, LIGHTER CHARGE KEEPS OTHERS FROM ASKING QUESTIONS.

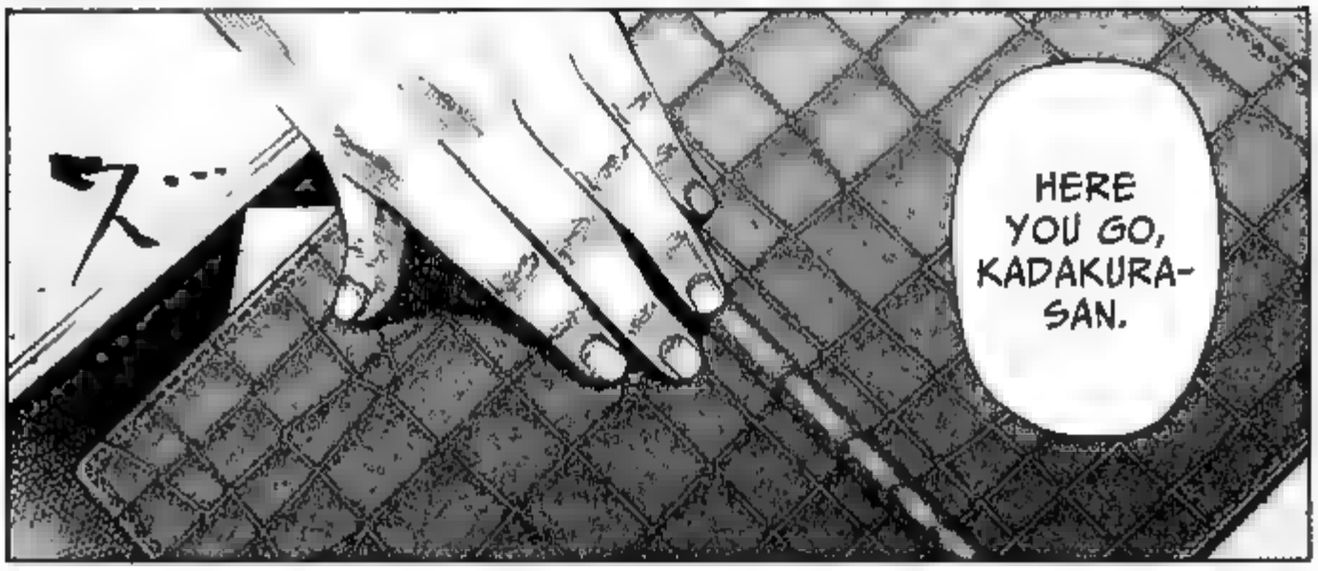
AND WHEN HE'S BEING QUESTIONED, HE WILL START TO GIVE AWAY INFORMATION REGARDING HIS OTHER, MORE SERIOUS CRIME
WE'LL GET THIS SUCKER ON THE "LIGHTER" CHARGE, THE DAY WORTH ONE


WE WILL
SHACKLE HIM
WITH CHAINS
THAT CAN NEVER
BE BROKEN.

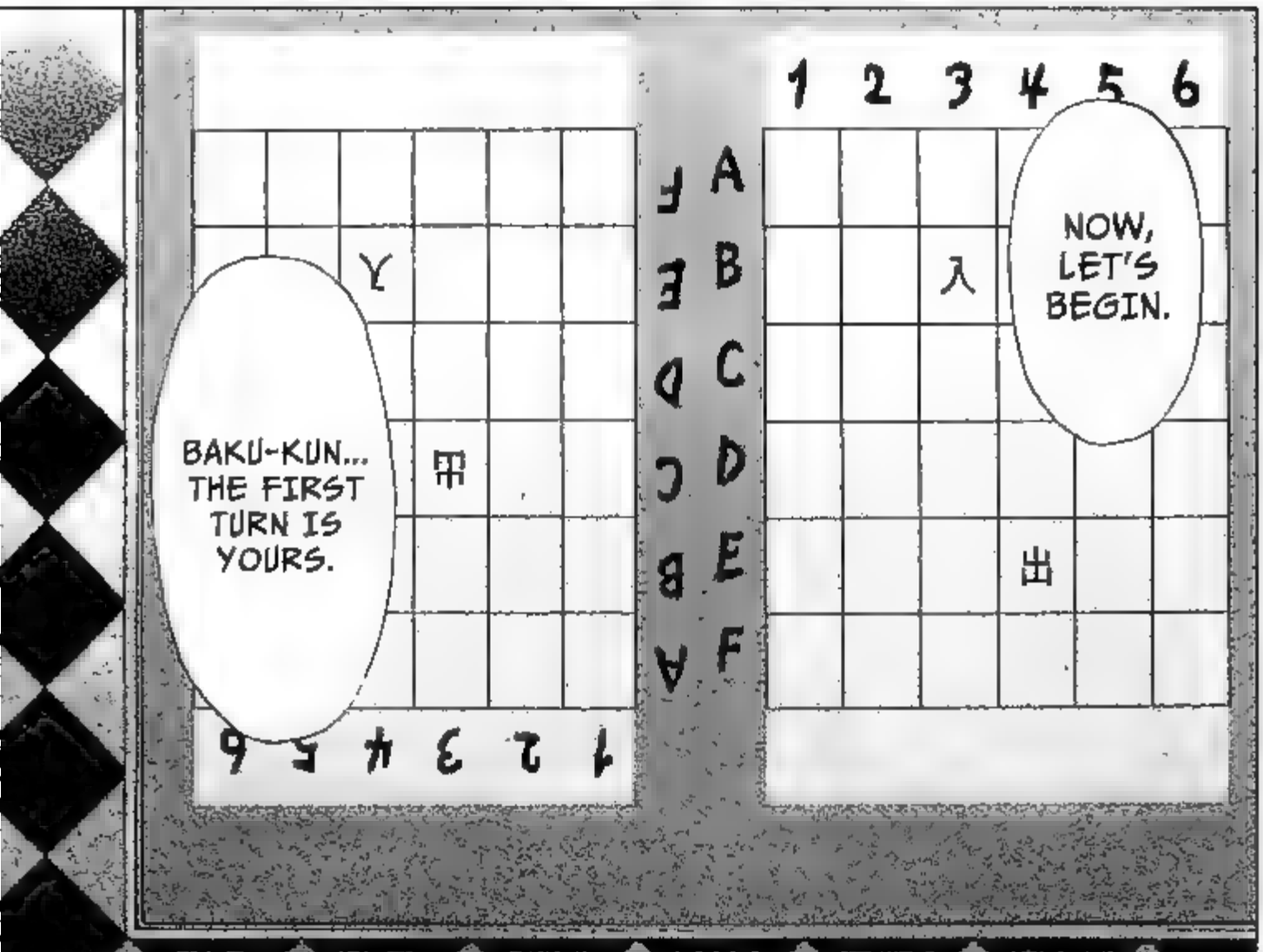


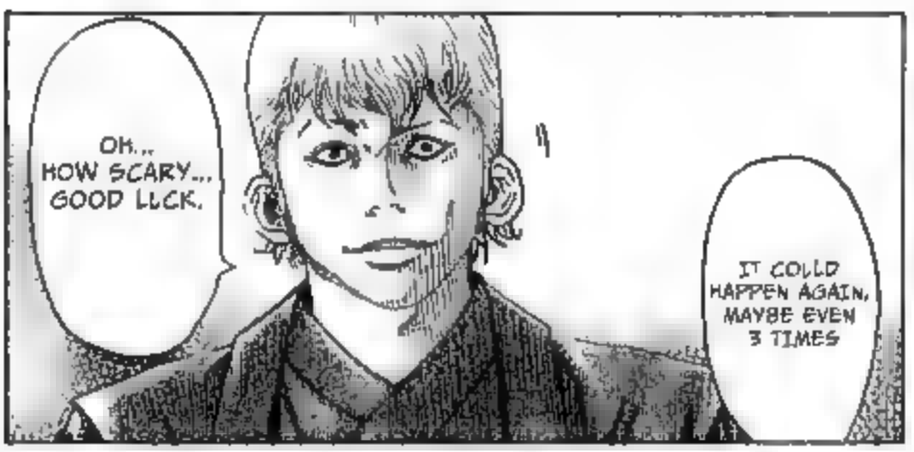
FWISH

FLIP


HERE YOU GO, KADAKURA-SAN.

UNDER-STOOD, SIR.
ARE OUR LABY-RINTHS.
THESE...


1 2 3 4 5 6
A B C D E F
入
出
NOW, LET'S BEGIN.
BAKU-KUN... THE FIRST TURN IS YOURS.
BOARD:
入=IN
出=OUT


OH... HOW SCARY... GOOD LUCK.
IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN, MAYBE EVEN 3 TIMES

YOU KNOW I WON THE FIRST GAME IN ONE GO

YES, NO WALL.

FIRST IS...
C3.

NEXT... EENY MEENY MINY...
MOE... HERE.
HEY,
SO FAR SO GOOD...
C2.
D2!!
YES.
NO WALL.
.....
BAKU-SAMA.

THERE IS A WALL THERE.
.....

NOW, IT'S YOUR TURN YUKIIDE-SAMA.

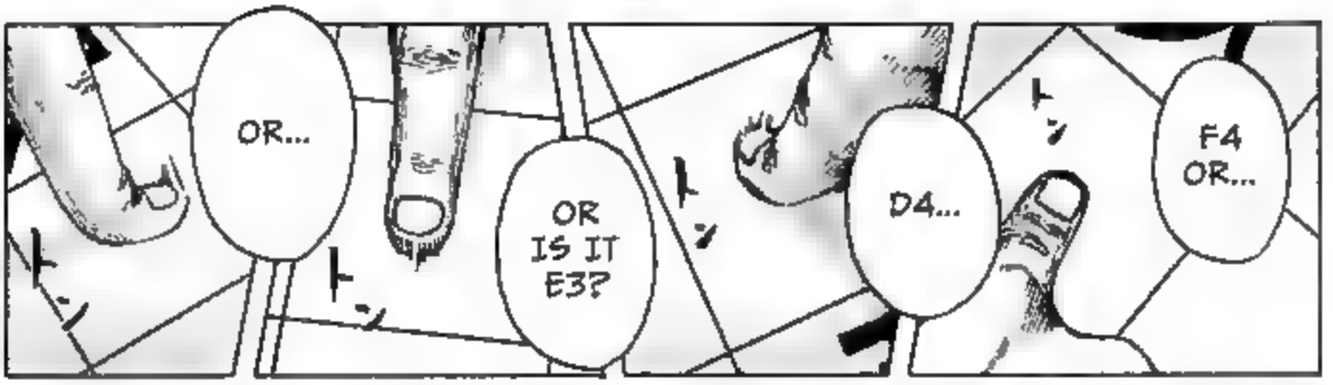
GOT IT WRONG ALREADY HUH...?
WELL, HAHA.

MORE THAN ENOUGH
TWO MOVES. IT'S ENOUGH.

YUKIIDE-SAMA...
YOUR TURN...
CHAPTER 95
WARNING
入
出
入
BOARD:
入=IN
出=OUT

CHAPTER 95
第95話
警告
WARNING
1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
F

I WANT TO GET THIS RIGHT.
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE A MISTAKE ON MY FIRST MOVE.
I'D SAY YOU HAVE TWO TO THREE WALLS NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR ME TO START OUT...
MY FIRST MOVE...


OR...
OR IS IT E3?
D4...
F4 OR...

.....
COULD IT BE... E5?

YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO KNOW, BUT I'M QUITE GOOD AT PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE.
SINCE I LOST TO YOU ON OUR FIRST GAME, I'M GOING TO PLAY THIS CAREFULLY NOW.

I WONDER IF THIS IS THE WAY TO GO?
JUST BEFORE, IT LOOKED LIKE YOU REACTED WHEN I MOVED MY FINGER OVER ES.
I ACTU-ALLY DON'T RE-MEM-BER.
I DON'T THINK THERE WAS A WALL THERE...
.....
WHO KNOWS?
KADO-KURA-SAN.

YES
NO WALL.

.....
ES.

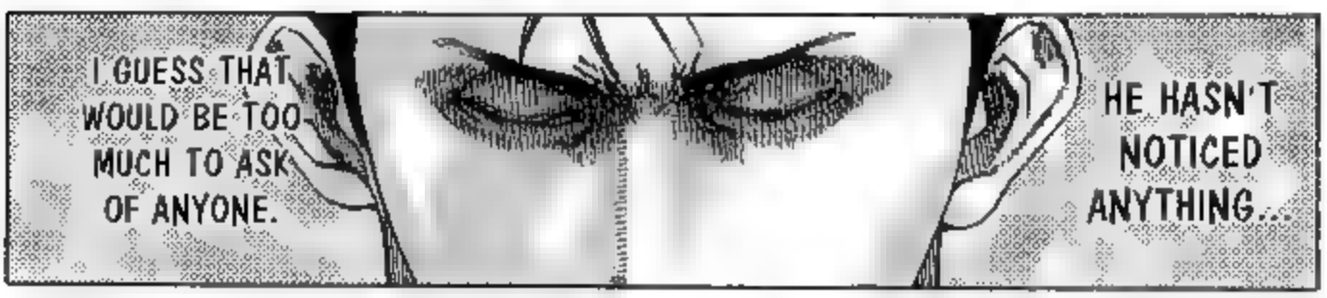
YOU'RE QUITE AN HONEST MAN...
.....
THANKS, BAKU-KUN...
HAHAHA... YAY FOR ME.

LET'S HOPE MY LUCKS CARRIES ON.
FROM THAT POINT ON...

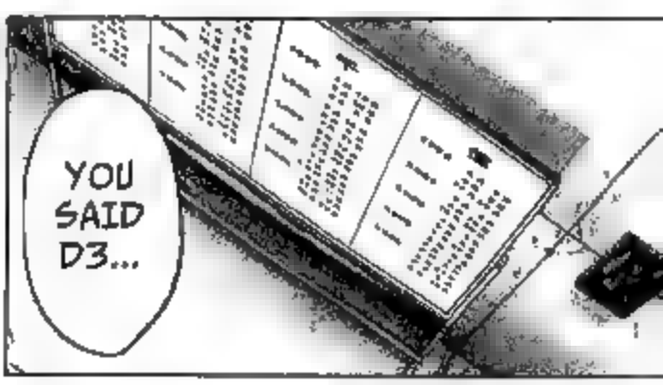
MAYBE YOU'RE NOT AS GOOD AT BLUFFING AS YOU'D LIKE TO BELIEVE?

HEHEHE.

AS I THOUGHT...
AND MADE STEADY PROG-RESS TOWARDS HIS GOAL,
YUKIIDE CONSIDE-RED HIS STEPS CAREFULLY, AT TIMES SEARCH-ING FOR ANSWERS IN BAKU'S FACE.
.....


I GUESS THAT WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO ASK OF ANYONE.
HE HASN'T NOTICED ANYTHING...

...I GOT IT WRONG...
SIGH...
BUT I DID MAKE GOOD PROGRESS.
THERE IS A WALL.

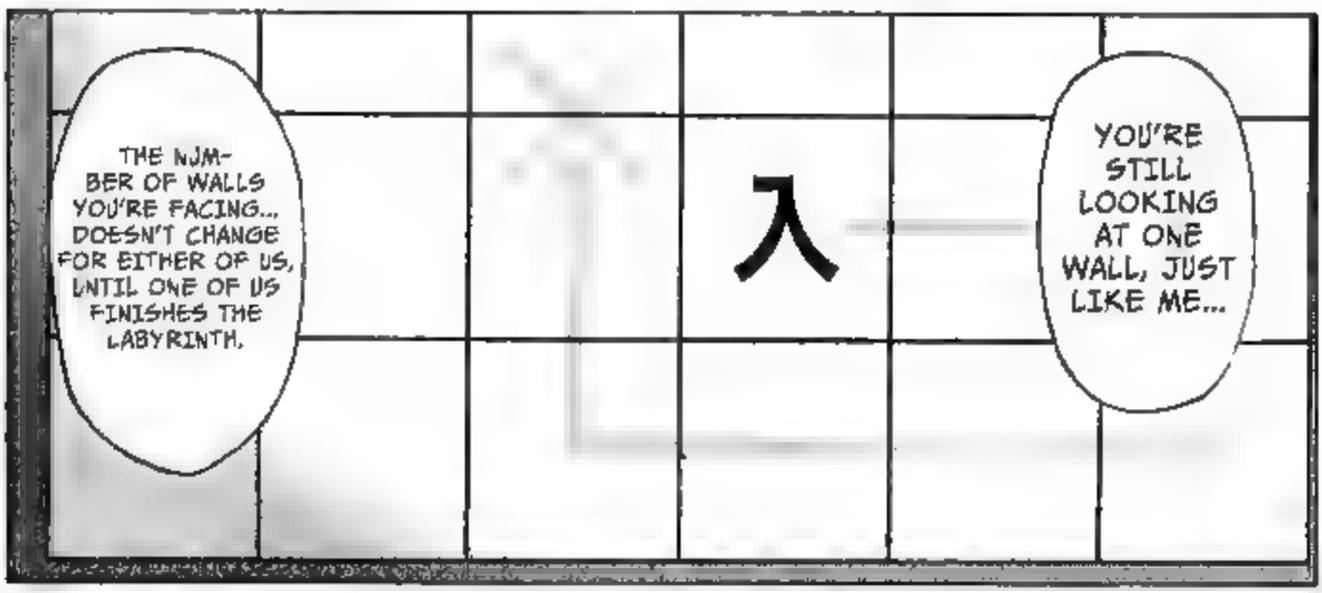

YOU SAID D3...

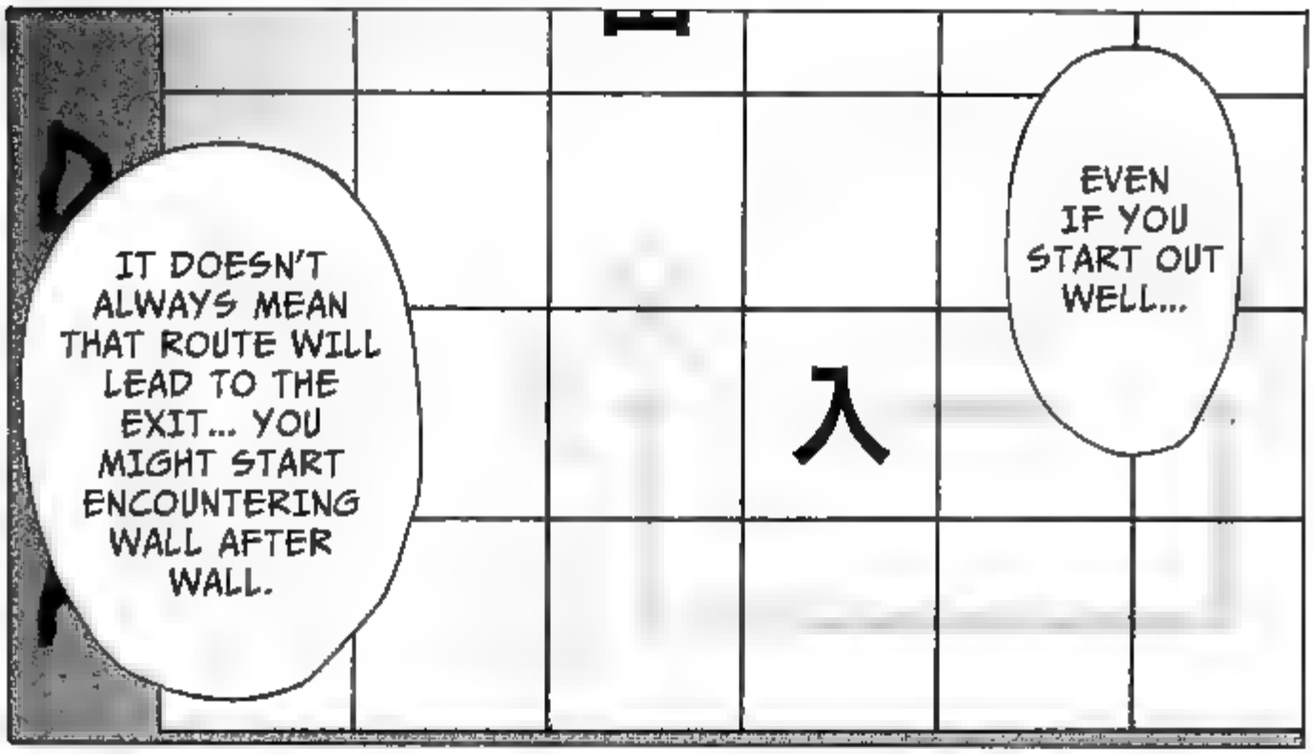
YOU'VE MADE A WRONG STEP, YUKIIDE-SAMA.

1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
F
出
入
IN THIS GAME,
IT'S YOUR TURN, BAKU-SAMA...
BOARD
出= OUT
入=IN

EVEN IF YOU TAKE MORE STEPS THAN I DO,
BUT THAT'S NOT AL-WAYS THE CASE.

IT MIGHT SEEM AT FIRST THAT THE ONE WHO MAKES THE MOST MOVES IN ONE TURN IS IN THE LEAD.


THE NUM-BER OF WALLS YOU'RE FACING... DOESN'T CHANGE FOR EITHER OF US, UNTIL ONE OF US FINISHES THE LABYRINTH.
入
YOU'RE STILL LOOKING AT ONE WALL, JUST LIKE ME...

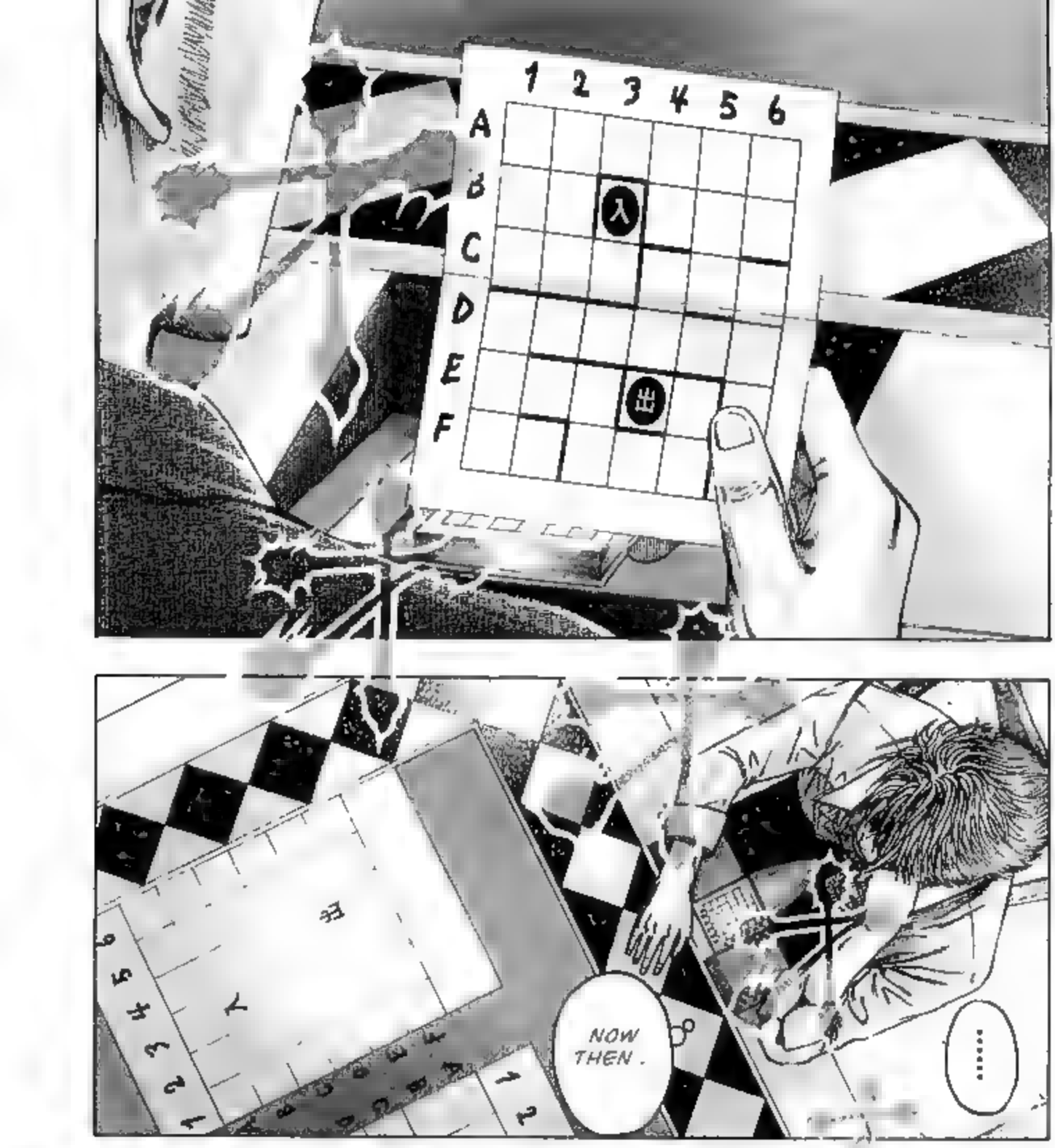

IT DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN THAT ROUTE WILL LEAD TO THE EXIT... YOU MIGHT START ENCOUNTERING WALL AFTER WALL.
EVEN IF YOU START OUT WELL...

YOU'RE AN OPTIMISTIC MAN...
REALLY...

WHAT I WANT TO SAY IS, THERE IS NO SIGNIFI-CANT DIFFE-RENCE...

BETWEEN THE NJMBER OF STEPS YOU'VE TAKEN, AND THE NJMBER OF STEPS I'VE TAKEN.
THE GAME HAS ONLY JUST STARTED.

WELL, GOOD LUCK THEN.


1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
F
NOW THEN.
……

I'LL JUST GO WITH MY GUT.

MAYBE IT'S BEST THAT I DON'T THINK TOO DEEPLY ABOUT IT...
THIS IS ALL HIT OR MISS.

HM...
UNFOR-
TUNATELY
THERE IS
A WALL
THERE.

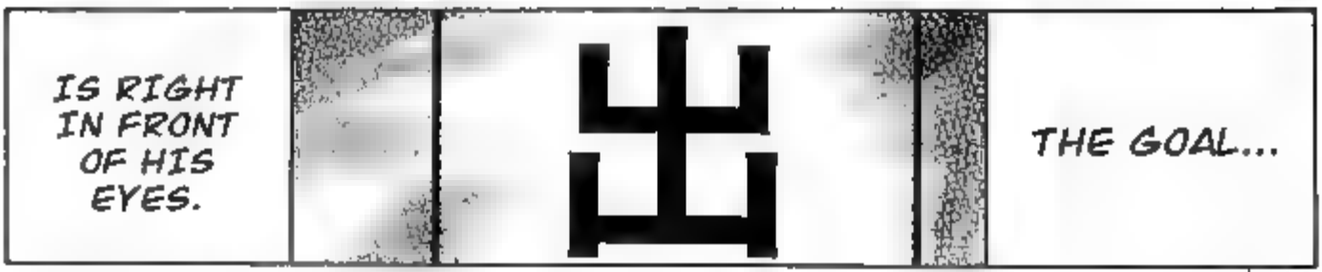
C4.
KADO-
KURA-
SAN.

BAKU-
SAMA...

NOW
YUKIIDE
TAKES
ANOTHER
STEP FUR-
THER

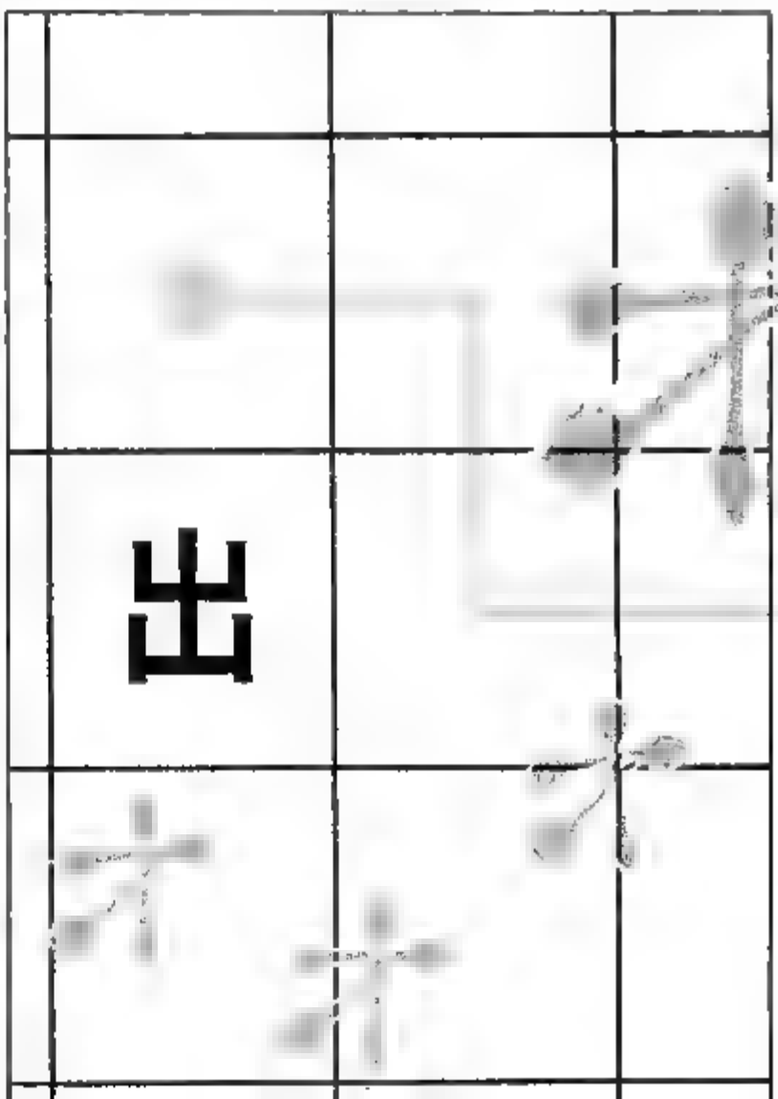
HAHAHA,
BAKU-
KUN...
YOU SAID
I MIGHT
START EN-
COUNTERING
WALL AFTER
WALL...
IT CER-
TAINLY LOOKS
LIKE THAT IS
WHAT'S HAP-
PENING TO
YOU NOW.

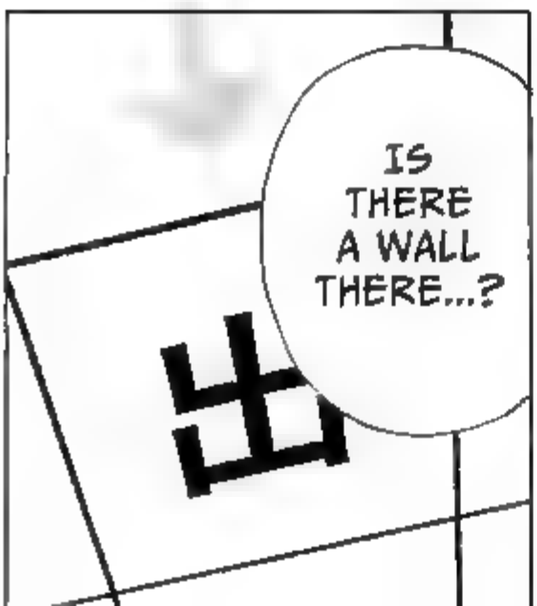
JUST WHO IS LEADING THIS GAME...
BUT THEY'RE SLOWLY REVEAL-ING THE LABY-RINTH...
ONE LOOK AND IT'S OBVI-OUS...
THEY HAVE BOTH MADE MIS-TAKES.


IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS EYES.
THE GOAL...

出 = OUT

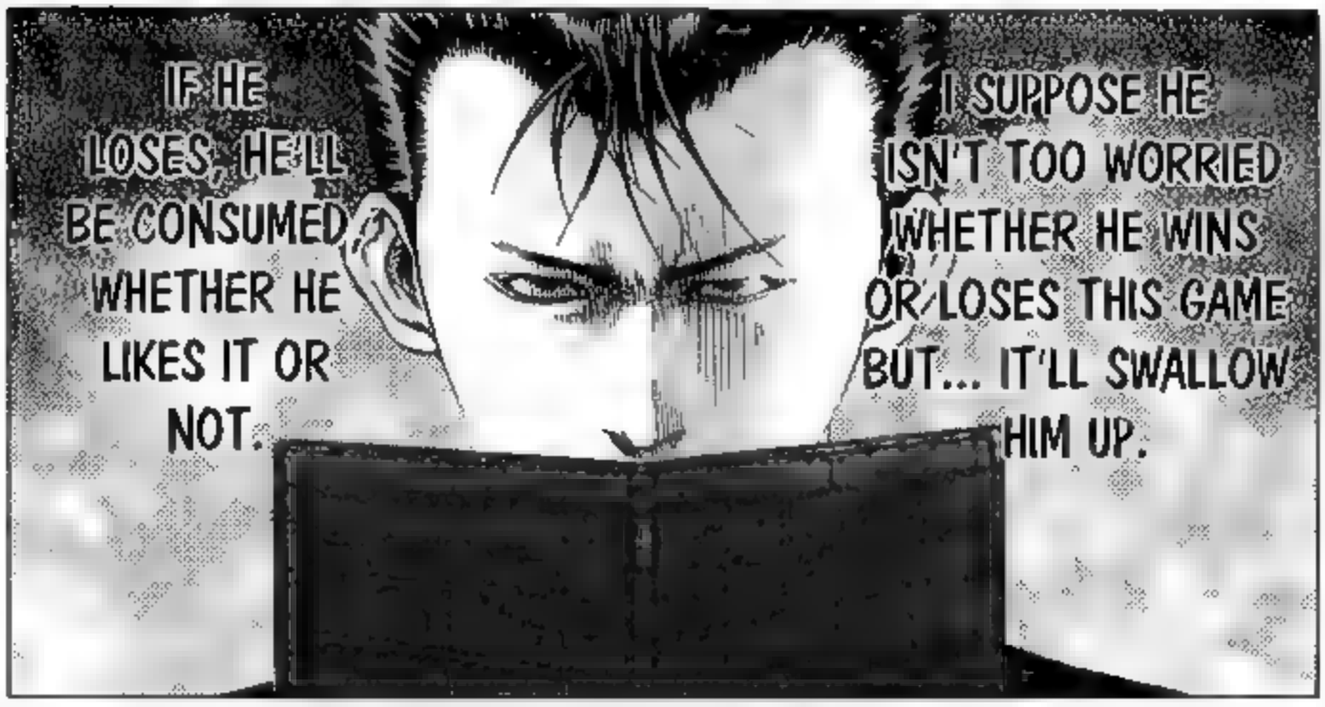
WELL, WELL.
I WONDER IF C3 WILL GET ME TO THE EXIT...




IS THERE A WALL THERE...?

NO WALL... WHAT DO YOU THINK BAKU-KUN?
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ONE.
YOU SHOULD NOT...
.....
GO THERE...

OH... I SEE...
.....
.....


IF HE LOSES, HE'LL BE CONSUMED WHETHER HE LIKES IT OR NOT.
I SUPPOSE HE ISN'T TOO WORRIED WHETHER HE WINS OR LOSES THIS GAME BUT... IT'LL SWALLOW HIM UP.

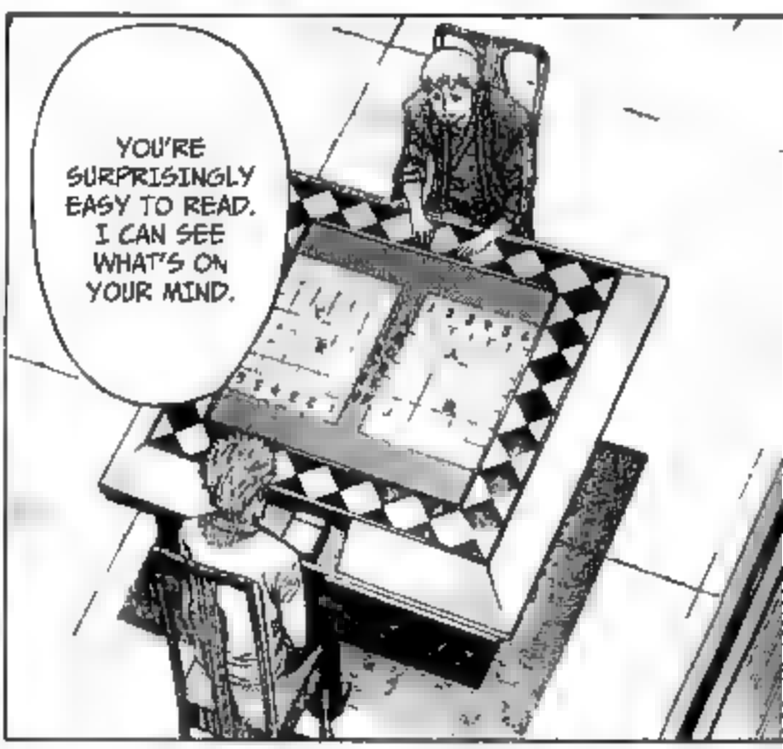
WITHIN THAT MAEL-STROM...
THE CHAOS...
IT'LL BE WORSE THAN HE CAN IMAGINE...

OK, BAKU-KUN.
I SHOULDN'T GO THERE... HUH?
KADO-KURA-SAN.
C3... LET'S GO.

C3...
.....
1 2 3 4
YES.
THERE IS NO WALL THERE.

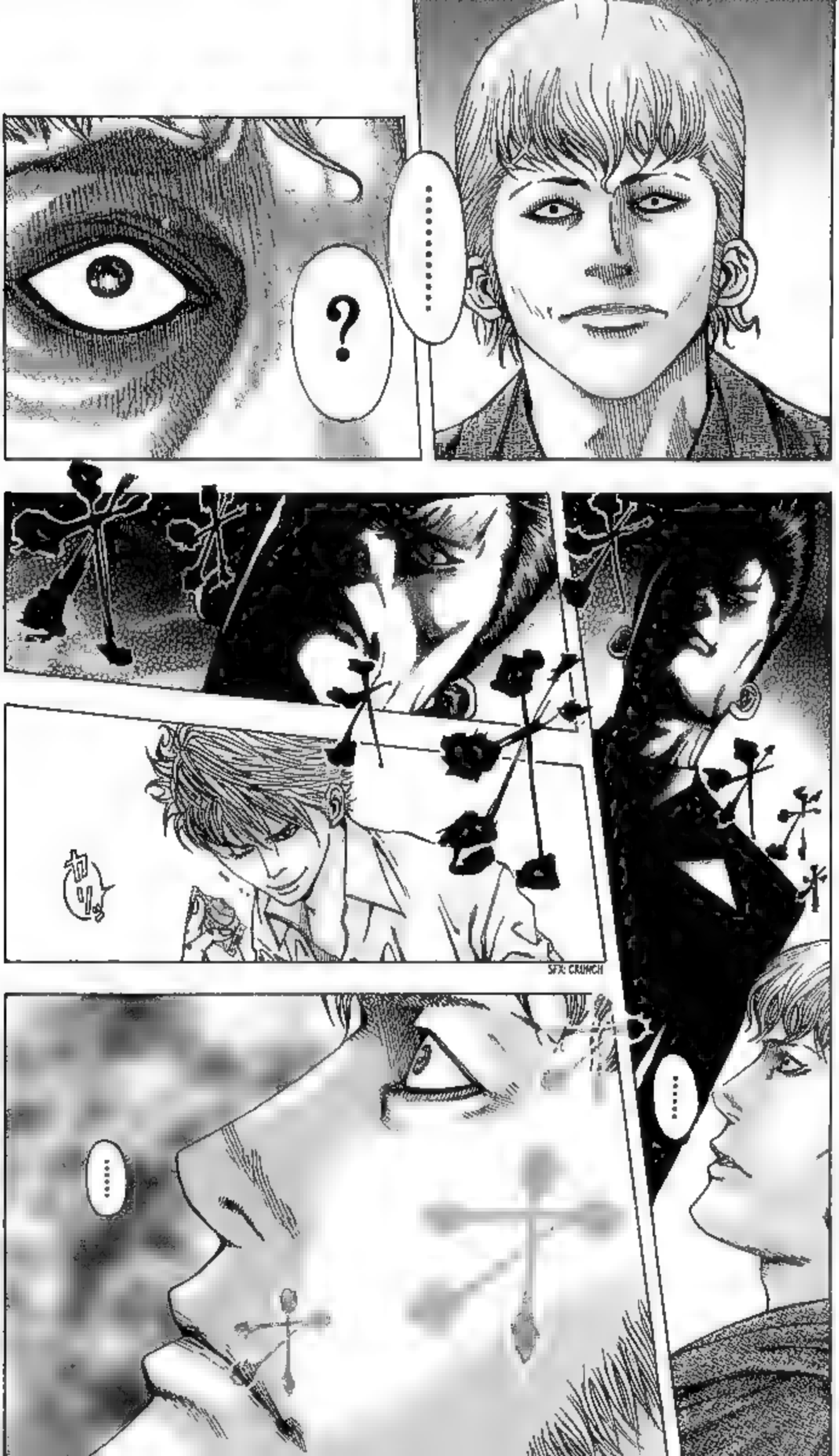
I'VE REACHED THE GOAL... BAKU-KUN...
THERE WAS NO WALL THERE... YOU LITTLE LIAR... BUT I'VE LEARNED SOMETHING IN THIS GAME.
.....
SFX: HANA

DAMN.
I DID TELL YOU,


YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY EASY TO READ. I CAN SEE WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND.

.....

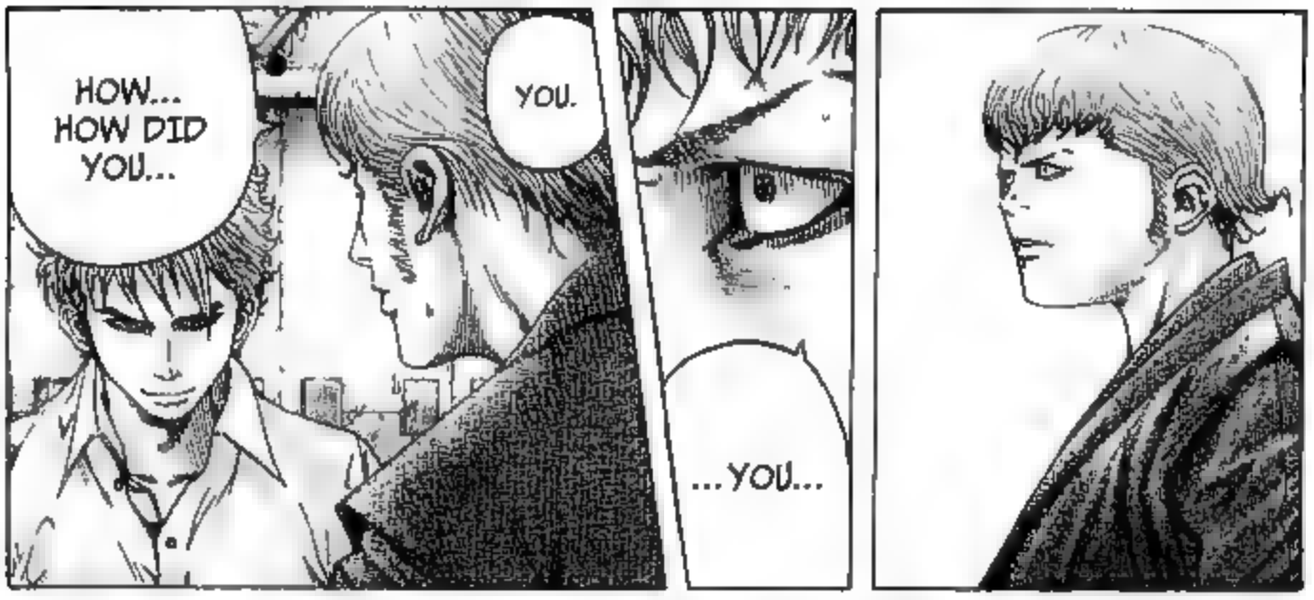
"YOU SHOULD NOT GO THERE."
かり梅
BAG OF PLUM: KARI-UME

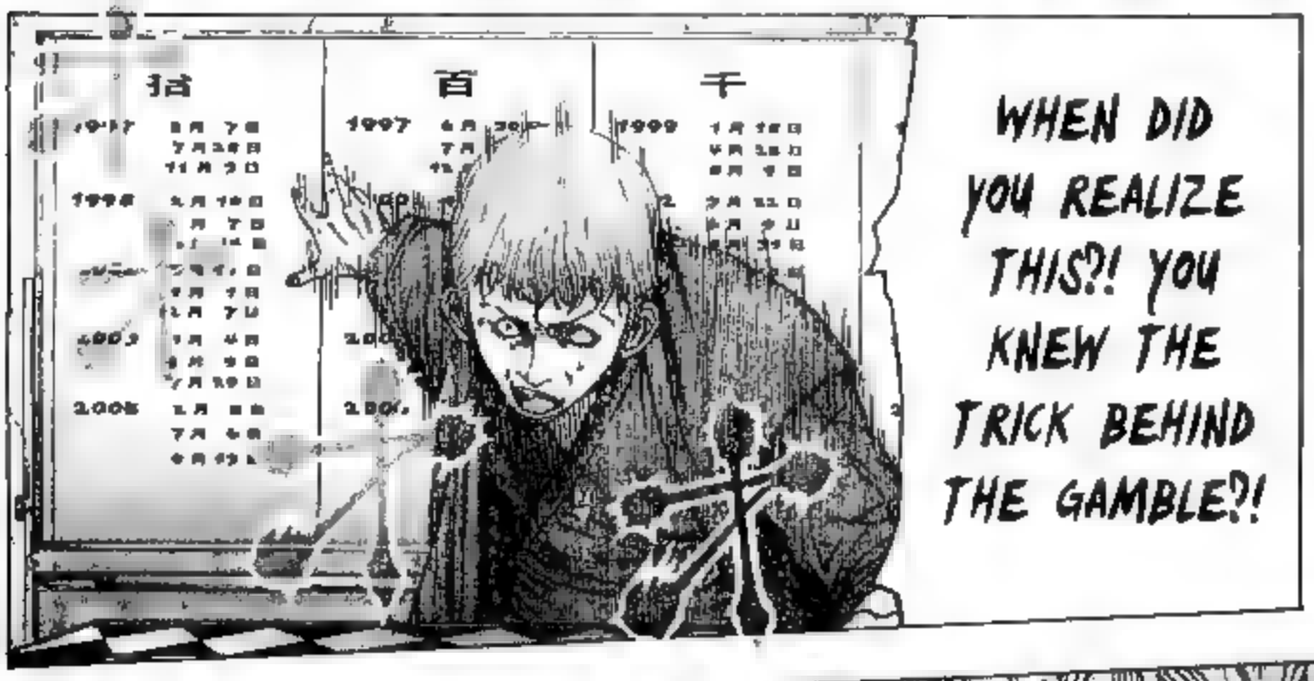

.....
?
SFX: CRUNCH
.....
.....

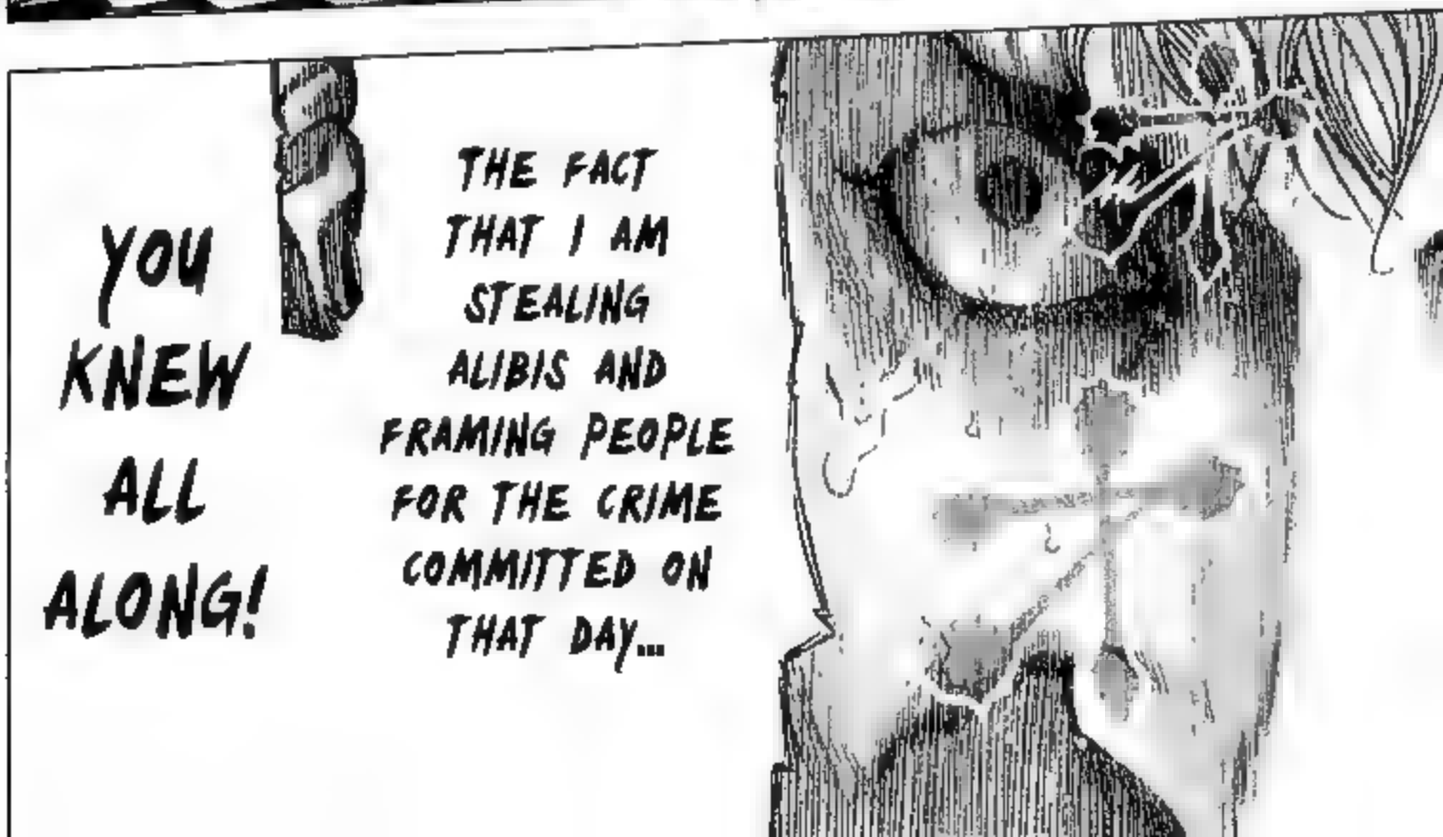
Chapter 96:
That Which is Lost

YOU ARE...
!
KALB KHAFIR, IF I'M NOT MIS-TAKEN.
.....

RISTLE
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, YOUR NAMING FITS... IT'S PROBABLY ARABIC.
KALB KHAFIR IS "WATCHDOG" AND MUTA-SHARRID MEANS "VAGRANT".
THERE'S SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO ASK.
APRIL 9, 2001... ON THIS DAY...
!
WHAT CRIME DID I COMMIT?


HOW... HOW DID YOU...
YOU.
...YOU...


WHEN DID YOU REALIZE THIS?! YOU KNEW THE TRICK BEHIND THE GAMBLE?!


YOU KNEW ALL ALONG!
THE FACT THAT I AM STEALING ALIBIS AND FRAMING PEOPLE FOR THE CRIME COMMITTED ON THAT DAY...

BY SHOWING YOU HOW FLUSTERED I AM...
WAS THIS ALL RIGHT?
SO.
.....

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN TOO BAD FOR YOU, BAKU-KUN...
I CAN'T LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTA-TIONS...
DID THAT MAKE YOU FEEL RELIEVED?
"HAHA."
"THAT'S A NICE EXPRESSION YOU HAVE THERE."

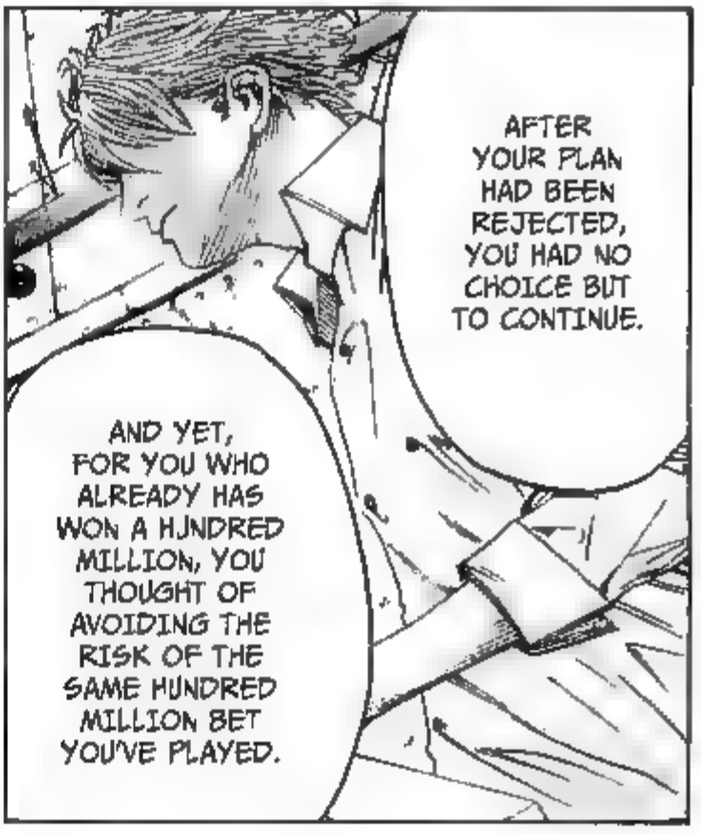
I ALREADY KNEW IT.
I...

IT'S NOT THAT UNUSUAL, BAKU-KUN. UP UNTIL NOW, THERE HAS BEEN OTHERS WHO HAVE REALIZED IT TOO.
THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO UNVEIL THE TRUTH WITH THEIR SHARP SENSES... ALTHOUGH IT DEPENDS ON THE PERSON, WHAT AWAITS THEM IS FEAR, DISTURBANCE AND CONFUSION.
I KNEW THAT YOU WERE PRETENDING NOT TO KNOW THE TRUTH, SO I PLAYED ALONG.
THAT IS BECAUSE SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS NO BIG DEAL TO ME.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I MET SOMEONE AS DARING AND GREEDY AS YOU.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT KIND OF GREED BEFORE... IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT YOU...
.....

AFTER WINNING THE FIRST ROUND, YOU ACTED LIKE YOU WERE UNWILLING TO BET FOR THE SECOND ROJND IN ORDER TO BAIT ME INTO INCREASING THE STAKES.
YOU WON'T BE SATISFIED WITH A ONE OR TWO HUNDRED MILLION BET... THEREFORE,

WITH JUST ONE LOSS, YOU'LL LOSE EVERYTHING... YOU THOUGHT OF RAISING THE STAKES IN ORDER TO EARN A LARGE AMOJNT OF MONEY IN ONLY A FEW ROUNDS.
EVEN THOJGH IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF EARNING MORE MONEY, IT'S DANGEROUS TO CHALLENGE MULTIPLE TIMES.
THE PRICE TO PAY FOR LOSING A HUNDRED MILLION BET IS HUGE.

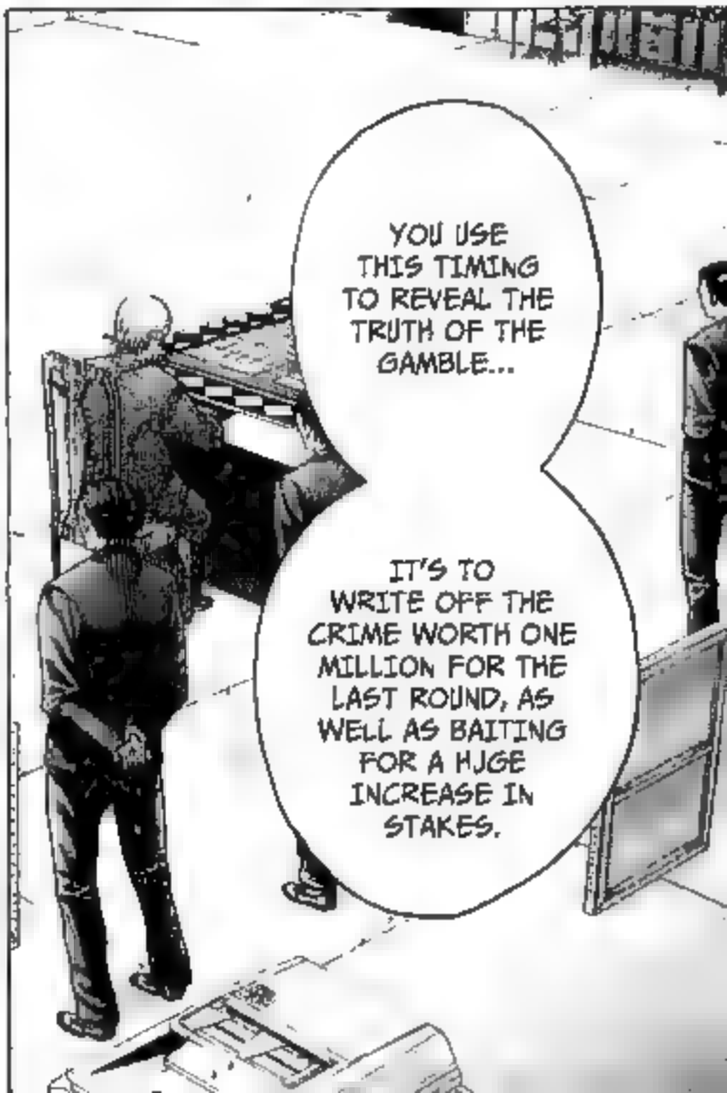
DELIBERATELY PICKING A DATE THAT'S NOT ON THE TABLE, AM I RIGHT?
IN ANY CASE SINCE YOU'RE IN IT, YOU'VE DECIDED TO CHOOSE TO BET ON A DATE WORTH EITHER TEN THOUSAND OR ONE MILLION.


AFTER YOUR PLAN HAD BEEN REJECTED, YOU HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO CONTINUE.
AND YET, FOR YOU WHO ALREADY HAS WON A HJNDRED MILLION, YOU THOUGHT OF AVOIDING THE RISK OF THE SAME HUNDRED MILLION BET YOU'VE PLAYED.

YOU WANTED TO BE JUST LIKE THE MAIN PROTAGONIST IN A GAMBLING MOVIE.
YOU PLANNED TO USE ALL SORTS OF PSYCHOLOGY WARFARE, RIGHT?
JUST LIKE HOW YOJ MADE UP LONG, DRAWN OJT MEMORIES JUST TO ANNOY ME...
IT'S A MEANINGLESS ACT.

BUT THE GAME HAS ONLY TWO ROUNDS... SO THEN WHAT?

THAT'S WHY YOU FOOLISHLY REVEALED THE TRUTH ABOUT THE IMPRISONMENT GAMBLE... YOU TRIED TO THREATEN ME TO KEEP THE GAMBLE A SECRET IN ORDER TO EXCHANGE FOR A BETTER DEAL.
IF THE TRUTH IS EXPOSED TO THE SOCIETY, IT WILL BE KNOWN AS A SCANDALOUS EVENT...
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN THE GAMBLE.


YOU USE THIS TIMING TO REVEAL THE TRUTH OF THE GAMBLE...
IT'S TO WRITE OFF THE CRIME WORTH ONE MILLION FOR THE LAST ROUND, AS WELL AS BAITING FOR A HJGE INCREASE IN STAKES.

YOU'RE FREE TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
YOU CAN SPREAD THE NEWS WHEREVER YOU WANT.
THERE MUST BE SOMEONE WHO WILL BELIEVE IN YOU.
THEN I'LL GO TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE TO BUY AND READ IT.
THE UMM... WHAT WAS IT CALLED AGAIN... THE TRUE STORY.

IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVE ANYTHING.

UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN IF YOU WERE TO RECORD WHAT HAPPENED HERE.

A DAY IN YOUR MEMO-RIES...

THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE ONLY PLAYING A GAME CALLED LABYRINTH HERE...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW? THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO NOW IS TO CHOOSE.

THERE'S NO ESCAPE, EVEN IF YOU DON'T PICK THE NEXT HUNDRED MILLION DATE.
YOU'VE BEEN DEVOURED...
...
STARTING FROM A CRIME WORTH ONE MILLION, I CAN DO ANYTHING... ANYTHING.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, INVOLVING THE KAKEROU IN THIS SYSTEM...
I WILL PERSONALLY MAKE YOU BEAR...
YOUR GRAVE SIN.
IT'S ALL TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS FLAWLESS... HOW?
PRESUMPTION OF GUILT...
ACCORDING TO THE CRIMINAL LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY, IF SOMEONE IS TO BE PROSECUTED, THERE IS A 99% CONVICTION RATE.

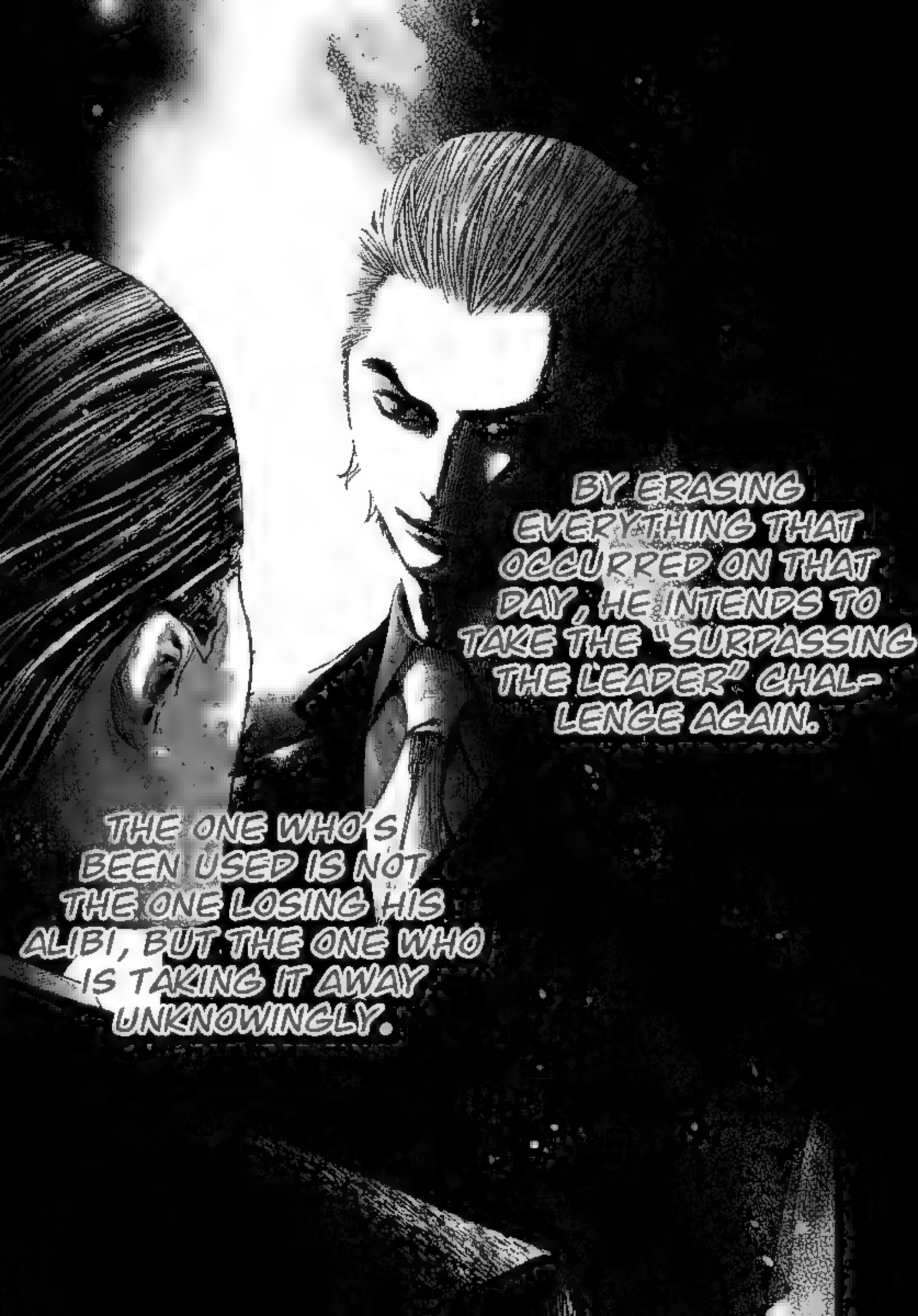
YOU ARE BEING COMPLETELY DECEIVED.
WELL, AREN'T YOU JUST SO GOOD AT MAKING SUCH A QUICK TURN-ABOUT?
...AS IT TURNS OUT, IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.
BECAUSE..
IT'S A PITY, IT WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU COULD THINK A LITTLE BIT FURTHER.
THE FACT THAT I'VE REALIZED THE TRICK BEHIND THE GAMBLE MEANS THAT...

I'VE CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF AN UNREALISTIC ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS KAKEROU THAT USES LEGAL MEANS TO ERASE A PERSON'S ALIBI.
THAT IS TO SAY, I KNOW OF KAKEROU... AND IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT I AM ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS.
IF I'M ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS...
.....
KADOKURA SPEAKING.
IS THIS THE JUDGE?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU...

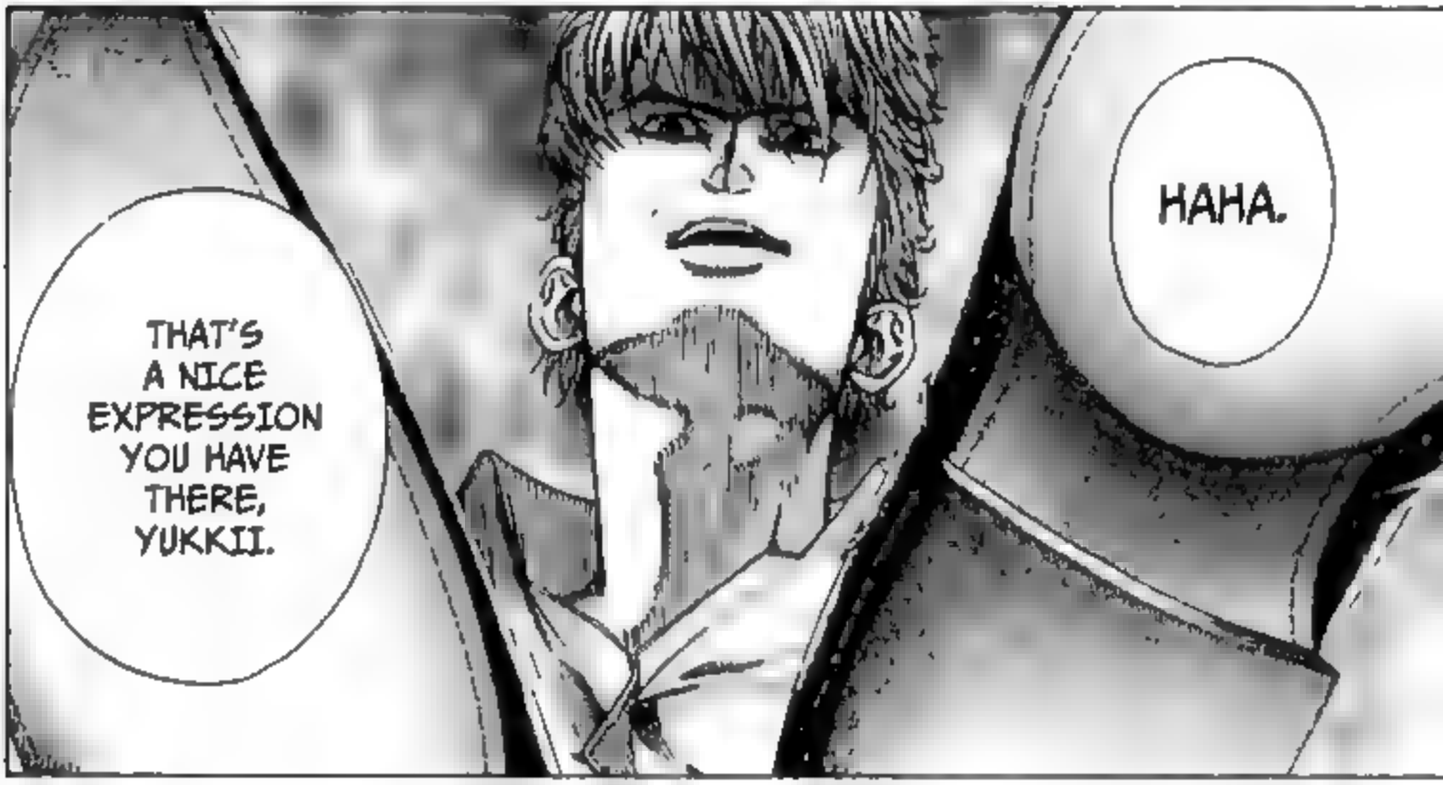
VERY WELL,
THEN PLEASE BRIEF ME THE DETAILS.
POLICE DEPARTMENT... LABYRINTH GAME... I SEE...
GOOD GRIEF, THE WAY CORRUPTED ORGANIZATIONS THINK NEVER CHANGE.
THE DETAILS OF THE GAMBLE YOU'RE ENGAGED IN.
ALTHOUGH MY ACTIONS HAVE NOT DEVIATED FROM MY DUTY AS A REFEREE OF KAKEROU,
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING TO HAPPEN?
I HAVE TO RELY ON MY DISCRETION TO DECIDE.
AT THE TIME, I TOLD USOGUI THAT OUR POLICY IS TO ONLY DEAL WITH WHAT IS WITHIN OUR CAPABILITIES.
USOGUI'S AIM WAS TO AFFIRM THE PLEDGE FROM ME.

THAT DAY IS...
HE WAS AIMING FOR THIS SINCE THE BEGINNING.
APRIL 9, 2001.
THE ALIBI THAT USOGUI BET ON.

THE DAY THAT THE LEGENDARY GAMBLER, USOGUI, LOST THE "SURPASSING THE LEADER" CHALLENGE.


BY ERASING EVERYTHING THAT OCCURRED ON THAT DAY, HE INTENDS TO TAKE THE "SURPASSING THE LEADER" CHALLENGE AGAIN.
THE ONE WHO'S BEEN USED IS NOT THE ONE LOSING HIS ALIBI, BUT THE ONE WHO IS TAKING IT AWAY UNKNOWINGLY.

EH?
IT'S YUKII DE HIMSELF.

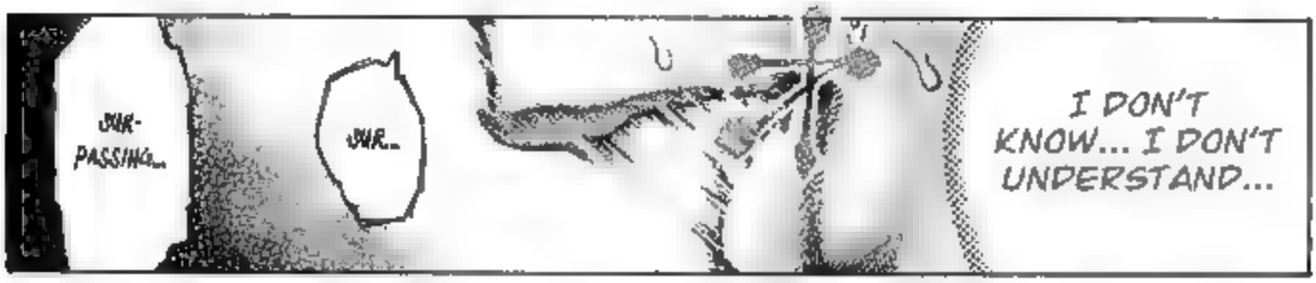

HAHA.
THAT'S A NICE EXPRESSION YOU HAVE THERE, YUKKII.

CONGRATULATIONS.
A NEW MEMORY HAS BEEN ADDED TO ONE OF THE VOIDS IN YUKKII'S LIFE.
SORRY IT'S A MEMORY FROM SOMEONE LIKE ME, BUT FEEL FREE TO TAKE IT.

第97話 判決は下される…

Chapter 97: A Decision is Made...

SUR-...
SURPASS...
SURPASSING THE...
SURP-ASS...


SUR-PASSING...
SUR...
I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

LEA-

?.....
...WHAT? JUST NOW... DID HE SAY "SURPASSING THE LEADER"?
"SURPASSING THE LEADER"... "SURPASSING THE LEADER"? SURPASSING... THE...

KA...

I SOMEWHAT UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION BASED ON YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIS REMARKS, BUT...
THERE'S A PART I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
PLEASE EXPLAIN.
KADO... KURA-SAN,
THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I WANT TO ASK YOU.

I AM A KAKEROU MEMBER.
IF BAKJI-KUN HAD PARTICIPATED IN THIS "SURPASSING THE LEADER" GAME, DOES THAT MEAN HE IS ALSO A MEMBER?
SO I ALSO KNOW ABOUT THE "SURPASSING THE LEADER" GAME.
.....
YES, THAT IS CORRECT.

AND...

ALIVE?
I DON'T KNOW... ASK THE LEADER YOURSELF.

I SEE THAT HE SEEMS TO BE FULLY ENJOYING HIS... LIFE...
FROM WHAT I KNOW,

"SURPASSING THE LEADER" IS A GAMBLE WHERE YOU BET EVERYTHING... SO WHY IS HE STILL...

WHAT I CAN SAY IS THAT...
THE COLLEC-TION OF BAKU-SAMA'S LIFE HAS NOT BEEN CARRIED OUT.
LET'S JUST SAY IT'S A SITUATION WHERE WE'RE WAITING FOR THE LEADER'S COMMAND.

IT IS A BET THAT WAS BETWEEN BAKU-SAMA AND THE LEADER.
I DON'T HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO GIVE YOU AN EXPLANA-TION.

FIRST OF ALL,
BAKU-KUN AND I.. THIS IS A GAME BETWEEN MEMBERS.
YOU FAILED TO TELL ME THAT HE IS A MEMBER..

.....
KADO-KURA-SAN...

IT'S YOUR JOB TO PRESIDE OVER THIS BET AND MAINTAIN FAIRNESS AS THE REFEREE. YOU FAILED TO DO SO.
YOU SHOULD'VE REVEALED TO ME THAT "SURPASSING THE LEADER" ALSO TOOK PLACE ON THAT DATE.
WHEN BAKU-KUN WAS TELLING HIS STORY ON APRIL 9, 2001...
AND ALSO,

THE GAMBLE IS DONE.
THE RESULT OF THE GAME IS DECIDED.
SOMETHING THAT WAS REALIZED AND CONFIRMED EARLIER ON IS REVEALED ONLY AFTER THE GAME FINISHES.
THAT'S TOO BAD... NOTHING CAN BE DONE. YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK.

I AM A CLUB MEMBER.
REVEALING THE FULL STORY OF WHAT IS BEING BETTED, SO THE MEMBER CAN ENJOY THE GAMBLE, IS THE CORRECT WAY TO DO THINGS.
AND YET YOJ DO THIS?

YOU CLEARLY NEGLECTED YOUR DUTIES AS A REFEREE... AND...
THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED.
THE FACT THAT SOMETHING THAT WAS DETERMINED FROM A GAMBLE HAS NOT BEEN CARRIED OUT, IS AN ACT THAT BETRAYS THE TRUST OF KAKEROU MEMBERS...
YOU SHOULD CARRY OUT THE COLLECTION OF HIS LIFE RIGHT NOW.
THE FACT THAT THE LOSER FROM THE GAME WHERE YOU BET EVERYTHING IS LIVING...
THIS SHOWS NOTHING OTHER THAN THE INCOMPETENCE OF KAKEROU... YOU SAID YOU DON'T HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO GIVE ME AN EXPLANATION, BUT...
"SURPASSING THE LEADER".

HEY!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SAYING?
KAKEROU'S INCOMPETENCE AND I REFUSE TO ACCEPT IT.
IF YOU DON'T, I SAY THIS RESULT WAS CAUSED BY...

FAILED MY JOB?
AN EXPLANATION?
FAIRNESS?
YOU'VE BEEN MAKING SISSY COMPLAINTS QUITE CONVINCINGLY, HOWEVER...
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?
BLABBERING SUCH NONSENSE.
HOW UNGULY.

YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE RIGHT COMPLAIN ABOUT IT?
HUH?!

OR WHAT? AGAINST ME, THE REFEREE IN CHARGE...
ARE YOU ...?

CONVE-NIENTLY IGNORING YOUR OWN INCOMPE-TENCE, I CAN'T BEAR TO HEAR YOUR REASONING.
PUT YOUR HAND OVER YOUR HEART AND REFLECT UPON YOUR OWN ACTIONS!

ARE YOU...
PICKING... A FIGHT?
GOING BACK, I'LL ANSWER YUKIIDE-SAMA'S QUESTION FROM EARLIER.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONVER-SATION... NOW THEN.
.....
I'M SATIS-FIED NOW, KADOKU-RA-SAN.
PLEASE EXCUSE MY RUDE-NESS.
REFEREE KADOKURA
IF YOU UNDERSTAND, IT'S FINE.
Be careful from now on.

WHAT KIND OF DECISION IS KAKEROU GOING TO MAKE ABOUT THE GAMBLE ON APRIL 9TH?
.....
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S EXACTLY GOING TO HAPPEN.
BUT THIS IS SOMETHING THAT INVOLVES THE HEAD OF KAKEROU...
FIRST, LET ME SAY THIS.
THE ISSUE WITH THE DAY OF "SURPASSING THE LEADER"...
AND ABOUT...
KADOKURA-KUN... GENERALLY SPEAKING, YOU DID NOT MAKE THE WRONG DECISION.
AND AS A REFEREE IN THAT SITUATION, THAT WAS PROBABLY THE BEST CHOICE.

FIRST... SOMEONE WHO HAS AVOIDED GETTING THEIR LIFE COLLECTED FROM US CANNOT GAMBLE USING KAKEROU,

THE QUESTION IS, WHETHER A DAY WHEN A LIFE WAS BETTED CAN BE MOVED ON TO A DIFFERENT PERSON OR NOT.

COLLECTING THE COMPENSATION OF THE GAMBLES IS ONE OF OUR DUTIES.

IN THIS CURRENT SITUATION, SINCE WHAT IS NEEDED TO BE COLLECTED IS A MATTER RELATED TO THE CLUB, THE COLLECTION SHOULD GO SMOOTHER THAN LEGALLY ERASING AN ALIBI...

BECAUSE IN THE INSTANCE THAT A PERSON WHO HAS AVOIDED GETTING THEIR LIFE COLLECTED ENCOUNTERS US, THEIR LIFE WOULD BE COLLECTED ON THE SPOT.

THEREFORE, MOVING THEIR COMPENSATION WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

THEN IT'S POSSIBLE TO USE KAKEROU UNTIL THE DEADLINE.

BUT IN THIS CASE, AS AN AGREEMENT, IT IS FORBIDDEN FOR THEM TO BET THEIR LIVES IN A GAMBLE.

17

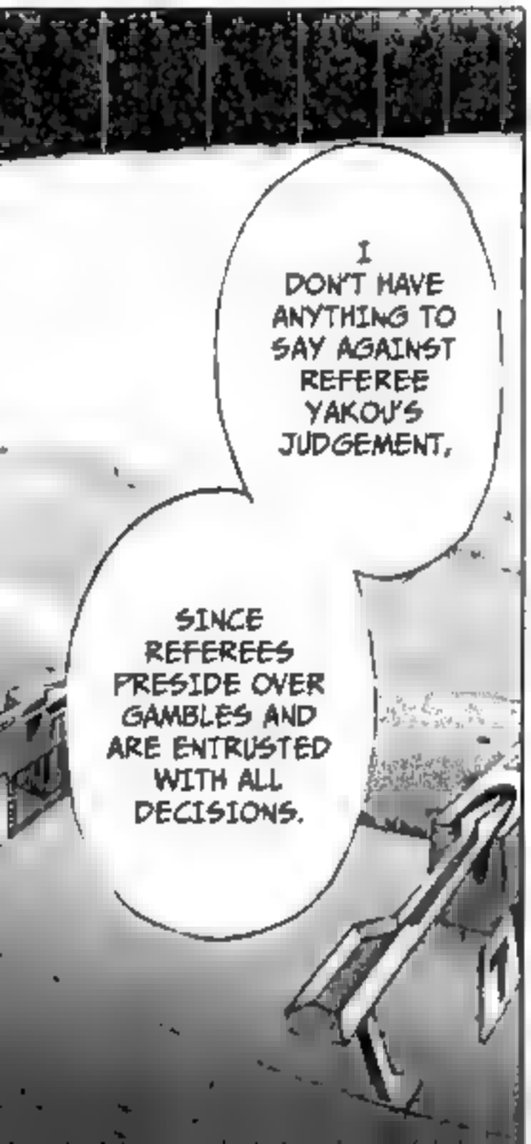
HOWEVER,

THERE ARE TWO EXCEPTIONS.

THE FIRST ONE IS... IF IN ADVANCE, THEY HAD ESTABLISHED A DEADLINE FOR THE COLLECTION WHEN THEY BETTED THEIR LIVES.

THE SECOND EXCEPTION IS IN THE CASE WHERE THE LEADER HAS ABANDONED THE COLLECTION..
OR RATHER, THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON IN THE WORLD LIKE THAT,
ONLY USOGUI.

THERE IS NO OTHER LIKE HIM, A RARE CASE... IN OTHER WORDS,
YOU COULD SAY THERE IS NO DEFINITE ANSWER FOR THIS SITUATION... HOWEVER,


I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY AGAINST REFEREE YAKOU'S JUDGEMENT,
SINCE REFEREES PRESIDE OVER GAMBLES AND ARE ENTRUSTED WITH ALL DECISIONS.

USOGUI HAS ALREADY GAMBLED HIS LIFE USING US WITH KOKONOE TAROU AND SADAKUNI ITSUKI.
THE DECISION THE REFEREE YAKOU MADE AT THE ABANDONED BUILDING IS WHAT STARTED IT.
THIS IS THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FIRST EXCEPTION AND USOGUI'S EXCEPTION.

A BEING SUCH AS A PERFECT PERSON DOES NOT EXIST, BUT IT IS THE REFEREE'S DUTY TO BE A PRESENCE THAT IS ALWAYS CLOSEST TO PERFECTION
BUT THAT IS ALSO WHY REFEREES MUST MAINTAIN PERFECTION AT ALL TIMES.
THAT IS WHY THE COST OF A MISTAKE IS BIG.

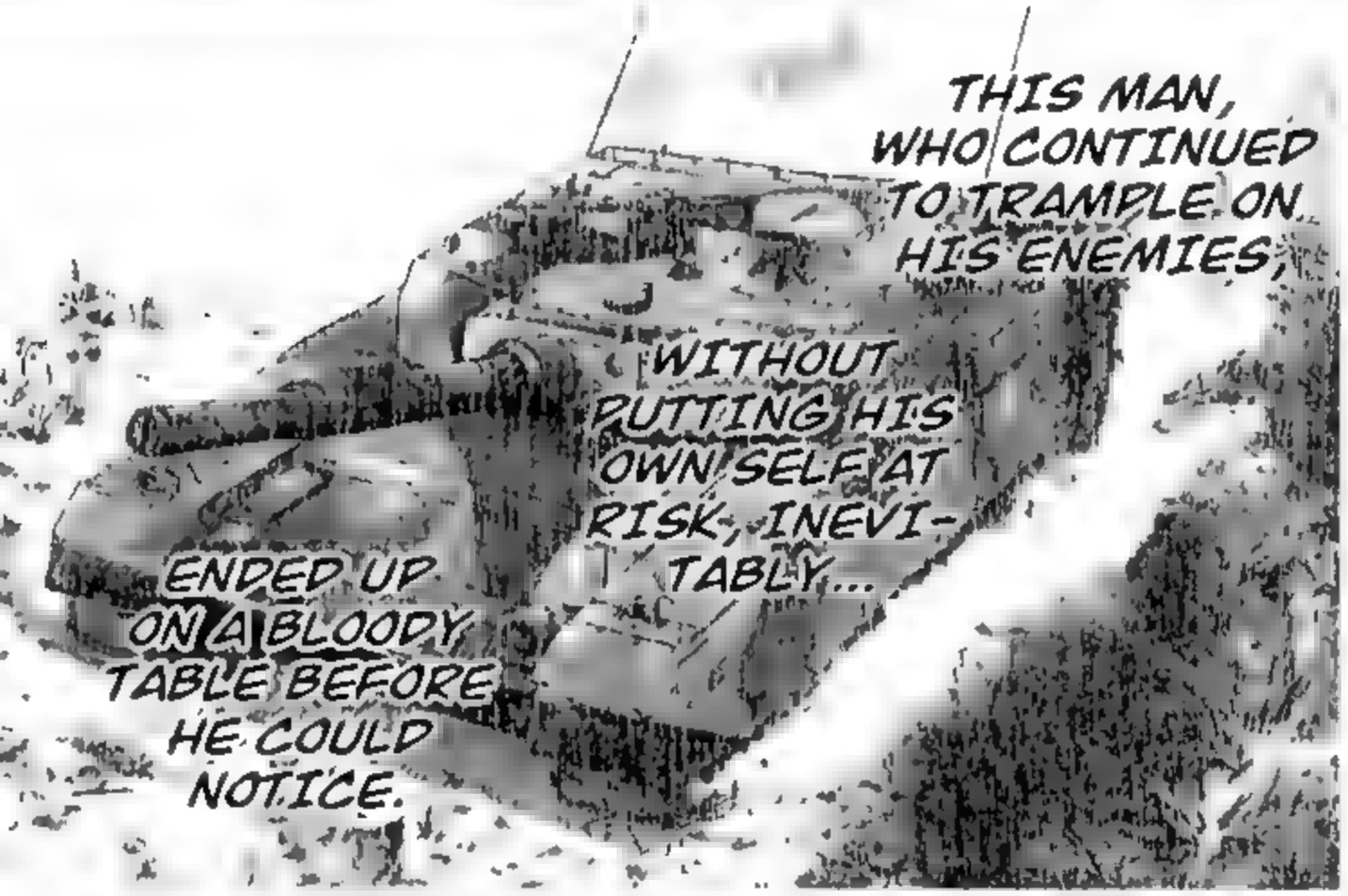
USOGUI, WITH AN UNUSUAL SITUATION, SHOWS UP AS AN OPPONENT FOR MEMBER YUKIIDE'S UNIQUE GAMBLE.
HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD HAVE NOTICED IT WAS A DAY INVOLVING KAKEROU INSTANTLY AND ASKED FOR MY DECISION BEFORE STARTING THE GAME.
FURTHERMORE, HE BETS ON THE DAY HE PLAYED "SURPASSING THE LEADER" WHICH INVOLVED KAKEROU. I'LL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THAT YOU WERE IN A PECULIAR SITUATION.

FOR THIS GAME...
I WILL TELL YOU MY DECISION ON THIS ISSUE.
WELL... KEEP THAT IN MIND FOR THE FUTURE...
NOW THEN, KADOKURA-KUN...
I WILL DECIDE AFTER SEEING THE RESULT... AND...
DEPENDING ON THE REMAINING ROUND, THE SITUATION WILL PROBABLY CHANGE.
.....
KAKE-ROU..
HAS DECI-DED.
THIS GAMBLE INVOLVING USOGUI'S DAY AT "SURPASSING THE LEADER", IN OTHER WORDS...
GAMBLING WITH MATTERS RELATED TO KAKEROU WILL BE FORBIDDEN AFTER THIS GAME.

THAT THIS BET IS VALID.
CURRENTLY... THE ONE AVOIDING THE COLLECTION OF THE LIFE...

IS YUKIIDE-SAMA.
AND ABOUT YUKIIDE-SAMA'S DEMAND EARLIER TO "CARRY OUT THE COLLECTION OF LIFE RIGHT NOW",
SINCE WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME WHERE VIOLENCE IS FORBIDDEN, IT WILL BE REJECTED.
I'M SORRY.

IT WAS DRAGGED OUT.


THIS MAN, WHO CONTINUED TO TRAMPLE ON HIS ENEMIES,
WITHOUT PUTTING HIS OWN SELF AT RISK, INEVITABLY...
ENDED UP ON A BLOODY TABLE BEFORE HE COULD NOTICE.

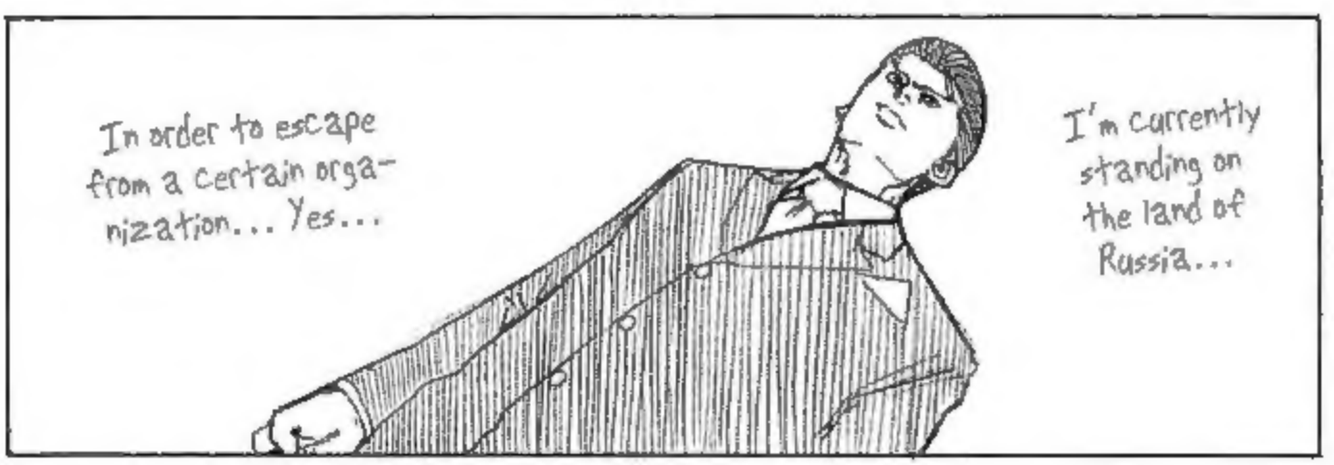
HIS OWN LIFE

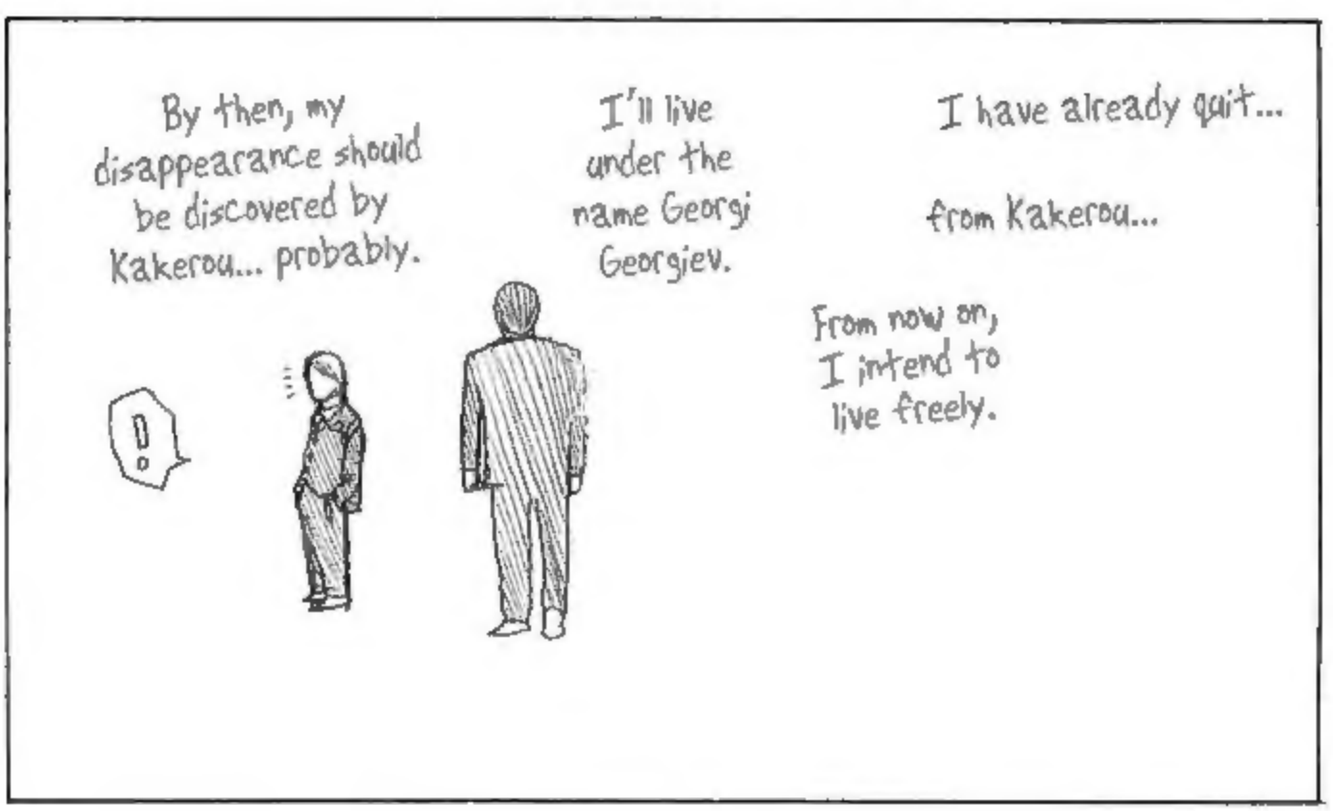
BY THE DEATH GOD.

The Debt Collector

USOGUI EXTRA

Yakou Hikoichi




By then, my disappearance should be discovered by Kakerou... probably.
I'll live under the name Georgi Georgiev.
I have already quit... from Kakerou...
From now on, I intend to live freely.
!

Nowa!
To think... there are already pursuers chasing me...
What are you doing here Yakou... Are you here for your job?
Heheh, got caught off guard.
This guy... He intends to get me by making me drop my guard. It's a scenario common in movies...
What's up with your face... Cat got your tongue?
I actually came here after getting a break by faking being ill. Keep it a secret from Kakerou, okay?
Should I...
strike first?
If you continue to follow your desires, you won't be connected to the future me.
Which means you won't end up as the real me.
Before you end up straying off to a different future me, reconsider your thoughts.
Do not do it.
Reconsider your thoughts.

Don't pretend to be strong.
You still haven't thrown away your gentleman's heart... The fact that you still have your handkerchief is proof of that.
Besides...
You... you are the future me....
It's fine now...
I don't have regrets leaving this future... to think I grew such a mustache.
What's the matter, Yakou?
?
...
it will succeed.
Your butler café,
I am currently in Russia, and I have captured fugitive Nowa. I will be returning.
Thus, I was able to return to the organization.
But I was scared to ask the future me, if in the future, a man called Nowa still exists.
YOU TRAITOR. YOU TRIED TO LEAVE KAKEROU!
NOWA!
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD DECEIVE ME?

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